

## JPMC gets \$27.5 million loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) will receive a \$27.5 million seven-year loan from the Arab Company for Petroleum Investments (ACPI), according to an agreement signed by the two sides here on Saturday. The agreement was signed by Dr. Husein Al Dabbas, chairman of the board of directors of the JPMC, and Dr. Noureddin Farraj, director general of ACPI. Following the signing ceremony Dr. Dabbas said the agreement enables the JPMC to reschedule debts from the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC), which was purchased by the JPMC last year. The new loan carries an interest of 7.5 per cent while the loans given earlier to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company by the ACPI carried interest at the rate of 8.5 to 12.5 per cent.

# Jordan Times

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## SSC coverage expanded to cover all

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday decided to expand coverage of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) law to include other groups not covered under the law since its application in 1980. A Cabinet statement said that as of June 1, 1987, all companies and private businesses employing five persons or more are to be included in the SSC law. Earlier, only those companies and businesses employing 10 persons or more were able to join the SSC. The Cabinet statement said all Jordanian nationals working for regional and international diplomatic missions or military missions in Jordan or those employed by technical centres and educational institutions that are affiliated to these institutions are to join the SSC. Institutions that employ less than five persons can join the SSC provided that once they are included they cannot withdraw. The Cabinet statement said all Jordanians could optionally be covered by the SSC law against old age, death and disability in accordance with regulations to be issued by the SSC.

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## Crown Prince visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday visited units of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and was briefed on their duty and training programmes. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the tour by the assistant to the army chief of staff for manpower and the commander of the division.

## Chinese ambassador reaffirms stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chang Jin said Saturday China supports the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation of all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Chang, who was speaking at the World Affairs Council, said that China strongly opposes Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. China will not establish any relation with Israel unless the Jewish state changes its expansionist and aggressive policy, said the ambassador. Mr. Chang also reviewed China's policy vis-a-vis international issues such as disarmament, world peace as well as China's relations with the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

## EC envoys mark anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ambassadors of the member states of the 12-nation European Community (EC) held a reception here Saturday evening on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome under which the community was set up. The reception was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Foreign Minister Taher Masi and a number of senior Jordanian officials and dignitaries, as well as diplomats (See page 4 for Jacques Delors' message on the occasion of the anniversary).

## Martens leaves

AQABA (J.T.) — Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens left Aqaba Saturday for Brussels at the end of a private visit to Jordan. Mr. Martens, who was accompanied by his wife, met with a number of senior Jordanian officials during his stay and visited a number of touristic sites in the country.

## Iraqi leader gets Soviet message

BAGHDAD (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who is canvassing proposals for ending the Iran-Iraq war, held talks on Saturday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said Mr. Petrovsky conferred with President Hussein on developments in the region and "the continuation of the Iranian aggression on Iraq and Tehran's continuous threats against security and stability in the Gulf region." The agency added that Mr. Petrovsky, who is on a four-day visit to Iraq, conveyed a verbal message from Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev to President Hussein. He earlier met other officials, including Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz (See page 2).

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# PNC ends session after averting collapse of new-found unity

By Lamis K. Andoni in Algiers

THE Palestine National Council (PNC) ended its 18th session here on Saturday after averting what could have been a disastrous end for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) drive for reconciliation and reunification.

Resolutions read out at the closing session spelled out the future policies of the PLO, including relations with Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon, and reemphasised the movement's endorsement of an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation of all parties involved and the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties.

One of the resolutions said the PLO "continued to reject (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 242 on its own as the basis" for a settlement to the Palestinian problem and that all pertinent United Nations resolutions should govern the conference.

On relations with Jordan, one of the resolutions said the PLO was determined to maintain "the unique character" of Palestinian-

Jordanian ties. It said the PLO supported the idea of confederal ties with Jordan but only after the creation of an independent Palestinian state. The resolution said ties with Jordan would be governed by the 1974 Rahat summit resolution as well as earlier PNC resolutions.

On Syria, a resolution said the PLO was determined to pursue efforts to better relations between the PLO leadership and the Syrian government.

On Lebanon, the PNC said the Palestinians living in refugee camps there were entitled to "defend themselves against attacks" and called for reorganised relations with the various Lebanese factions with special emphasis on "nationalist and progressive movements."

The PNC deplored the con-

tinued Iran-Iraq war and condemned Iran's continued occupation of parts of Iraqi territory. It called for a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Finally, on Egypt, the PNC adopted a resolution which was the focus of the last-minute threat to the successful conclusion of the council. The resolution said the PLO's relations with Egypt be governed by decisions adopted by the 16th session of the PNC and Arab summit resolutions. It endorsed contacts between the PLO and "nationalist and progressive forces" in Egypt and the Egyptian masses.

The resolution was the focus of an escalation of a dispute between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and hardline PLO factional leaders George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The dispute, which was supposed to have been settled with the endorsement of the resolution by the PNC Political Committee at dawn Saturday before presentation to the PNC later in the

(Continued on page 3)

## Palestinians vow to keep up anti-Israel attacks

AIN AL HILWEH, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian leaders have vowed to keep up cross-border attacks on Israel regardless of Israeli threats and air strikes.

"It is a continuous war with the Israelis. Of course we plan more cross-border attacks," Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Zeid Wehbeh told Reuters Friday night.

Commandos were on the alert on Friday after Thursday's Israeli air raid which wounded 16 people, but otherwise life was much as normal with banking cars and refugees crowding the dusty tracks of the big Ain Al Hilweh camp.

Ain Al Hilweh is PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's main Lebanon stronghold and Mr. Wehbeh is his representative at the camp. A three-man PLO squad and two Israeli soldiers were killed in a cross-border raid on Thursday and Israeli officials have predicted a difficult summer along their northern border.

Nine Israeli air raids on Lebanon this year have been targeted on Ain Al Hilweh and nearby Palestinian positions east of Sidon.

"The more the Israelis escalate their actions against us, the more alert we become," Mr. Wehbeh said.

"This enemy only understands force," he added. Abu Yasser, a senior commander of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh group, toured positions and visited a wounded guerrilla.

"All of our camps are training, and nearly everyone is being armed," Abu Yasser said.

Abu Yasser said he believed leaflets dropped by Israeli planes in South Lebanon on Thursday would not turn the population against guerrilla attacks with threats of "iron fist" reprisals.

"They don't scare people any more. All the southerners and Palestinians know the limit of Israel's capabilities now and they will all fight them again if they think of returning," Abu Yasser said.

Nevertheless, witnesses said that since the Israeli air raids escalated, many Lebanese civilians living near Ain Al Hilweh had packed and left to stay with relatives and friends in the relative safety of Sidon.

Inside the camp, women, children and guerrillas carried on their everyday life, shopping and visiting.

## Strike freezes Lebanon for third day running

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A general strike to protest soaring prices paralysed Lebanon for a third day on Saturday as labour unions forced the closure of the few businesses that did not strike.

Members of the 250,000-strong General Confederation of Labour (GCL) toured Beirut and Lebanese cities and urged the few businesses that resumed to abide by the general strike.

A gasoline station that resumed work in west Beirut's Mazraa commercial thoroughfare was "forced by GCL members to close again," a witness quoted by AP said.

A delegation from the labour confederation "arrived at the filling station as hundreds of cars queued for gasoline. They talked the owner into closing again, to the dismay of motorists," said the witness.

Meanwhile, the confederation scheduled a general congress for May 7 to "assess the outcome of the strike and work out future action plans," a statement said.

Shops, banks and businesses stayed shut in the longest nationwide general strike that residents could remember.

Antoine Bishara, head of the GCL, leading the three-day stop-

page, threatened Friday night to call a strike to last up to one month "if officials continue to disregard their duties."

"We insisted on this strike to press demands which concern all citizens and not just the labour force," he said.

The decision to prolong the protest for a third day was taken despite Thursday's meeting of rival Christian and Muslim cabinet ministers, the first for seven months.

The ministerial meeting did not produce the tangible results anticipated, Mr. Bishara said. Nine members of the "national unity" government attended the session. Walid Junblatt, minister of transport, public works and tourism, was not there.

A communiqué said they had agreed to meet again next week, revive measures to alleviate economic hardships caused by the 12-year-old civil war and to reassert state authority.

However, ministers soon resumed wrangling, with Christian Finance Minister Camille Chamoun saying the communiqué was merely an agenda for discussion and Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Rashid Karami saying it outlined official decisions.

## Leftist group claims Athens bomb attack

ATHENS (Agencies) — A left-wing group claimed responsibility on Saturday for a bomb attack on a bus carrying American military personnel.

The November 17 organisation said it exploded the remote-control bomb, which wounded 18 people, to protest the presence of U.S. bases in Greece and threatened to strike again.

The group made the claim in a four-page proclamation published in the left-wing Athens daily Eleftherotypia.

"We hit the Americans because their bases constitute an occupation force in our country... we shall hit them without warning if they're high or middle-ranking base personnel," the proclamation said.

November 17 has claimed responsibility for 11 political assassinations since 1975, including the U.S. central intelligence agency station chief in Athens and a U.S. navy officer. None of the killings has been solved.

The group is named for the date a 1973 student rebellion was crushed by the 1967-74 military dictatorship.

The last bombing in Greece against the U.S. military was February 1985 attack at a sub-

urban bar. Sixty-eight Americans were injured.

Twelve U.S. military personnel, four civilians and two Greeks were injured in Friday's blast on a main boulevard near the capital's fruit and vegetable market.

A police spokesman said witnesses saw two men in blue workers' overalls running towards a van after the blast. The stolen van was later found abandoned near a football field.

The Greek government said after Friday's attack that "such actions serve only the interests of those who conspire against social peace and democracy in our country."

The United States also denounced the explosion and said U.S. officials were helping with investigations.

November 17 on Saturday accused Washington of encouraging Turkish sovereignty claims in the Aegean, where a row with Greece over oil exploration rights brought Ankara and Athens to the brink of war last month.

# Kuwait meeting focuses on investments in Jordan after emir's pledge of total support

KUWAIT (Petra) — A conference on promoting investments in Jordan opened in Kuwait on Saturday and the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, voiced his country's total support of promoting in Kuwait the idea of investments in Jordan.

The emir pledged his government would translate the conference's resolutions and ideas into reality.

Sheikh Jaber was speaking at a meeting with Dr. Rajai Muasher.

minister of industry and trade, and Dr. Hanna Odeh, minister of finance, who arrived in Kuwait Friday evening for the conference which opened Saturday.

Dr. Muasher conveyed to the emir greetings from His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian government and people, and expressed appreciation for Kuwait's support for the conference.

Dr. Muasher met in Kuwait later with Sheikh Saad Al Abdul-

lah Al Sabah, heir-apparent of Kuwait and the country's prime minister, to whom he delivered a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The message dealt with means of promoting trade and economic relations between Jordan and Kuwait. The message also contained Prince Hassan's appreciation for Kuwait for hosting the conference.

Sheikh Saad greetings from Prime Minister Zaid Rafai and reviewed with him economic cooperation between Jordan and Kuwait in the light of a visit to Kuwait last October by Mr. Rafai. Dr. Odeh and Jordan's ambassador to Kuwait as well as Mr. Jassem Al Khurafi, Kuwait's minister of finance, attended the meetings.

Mr. Khurafi later opened the

Dr. Muasher conveyed to

(Continued on page 5)

## 2 Israelis injured in Gaza firebombing

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Two Israelis were injured Saturday when assailants threw a firebomb at their car in the main shopping street of the Israeli-occupied Gaza City, the Israeli military said.

An Israeli spokesman said that in a second incident in Gaza City, another Israeli car was hit by a firebomb and burned. The passengers safely escaped from the burning car, he said.

The spokesman said the two wounded, a father and his son, had suffered light injuries and were transferred to hospital.

Israel Radio described the two as residents of Dimona, a town in the Negev desert near Beersheba. A Palestinian source who demanded anonymity told AP the Israeli troops imposed a curfew on Gaza City's main shopping street and made several arrests.

The source said the two incidents occurred within ten minutes. Israelis often visit the Arab market and shops in the occupied city. Last year, two Jewish shoppers were stabbed to death in Gaza City.

On Wednesday, a bomb planted in the centre of a city street was safely dismantled.

In the West Bank, a Jewish settler and three Palestinians were injured during a clash at the entrance to a Jewish settlement, near the town of Qalqilya.

An army spokesman said a

watchman opened fire when several local Palestinians approached the settlement gates. Other armed settlers ran to the scene and a fight started in which three Arabs and one of the settlers were injured.

Following the incident, the Israeli army clamped a curfew on the neighbouring village of Kfar Al Akif, the spokesman said.

He did not know what had caused the scuffle. Tension between Jewish settlers and Arabs in the territories has soared since a settler was killed and four others injured in a petrol bomb attack two weeks ago.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has vowed to crack down on any unrest and warned Palestinian nationalists that violence would lessen chances of a political solution for the territories.

Mr. Rabin also warned Jewish settlers that in choosing to live in the West Bank they must realise that there were always dangers involved.

Some 50 Jewish settlers near Hebron clashed Friday night with Israeli troops at the town's Cave of the Patriarchs, reports said.

The incident occurred at a time when the site was closed to Jewish prayer. The settlers forced their way past soldiers guarding the entrance but were expelled when more troops arrived, reports said.

## Iranians hit tanker; appeal for U.S. navy help goes unheeded

BAHRAIN (AP) — An Iranian helicopter gunship attacked a Liberian tanker near the Strait of Hormuz Saturday, and the crew claimed an appeal to U.S. navy warships for help went unheeded, maritime salvage executives reported.

The attack on the 141,006-tonne Megapoint off Ras Al Khaimah's Sagr port was in apparent retaliation for an Iraqi raid on the Panamanian-flag supertanker Fuji Orient at the northern head of the Gulf less than 24 hours earlier. The vessel was carrying a load of crude oil from the Iranian Kharg Island oil terminal.

The Gulf-based executives said the Megapoint reported it was "hit" at 00:15 a.m. Saturday (20:15 GMT Friday) and sustained minor damage.

They said the Megapoint was first challenged by an Iranian gunboat about 15 minutes before the gunship struck. "The Megapoint called on American navy (units) for help but did not get it," one of the executives said.

He inferred that U.S. navy patrols in the Gulf waters would help only U.S.-flag vessels in distress.

The London-based Lloyds shipping intelligence department confirmed the attack. It said the Megapoint was "hit three times by helicopter off Mina (port) Sagr."

Lloyds said the tanker, which was empty, was holed in the slop tank, one radar was left useless, wheelhouse windows and pipes on deck were broken. The vessel was able to proceed under its own power and reached the port of Dubai at daybreak, Lloyds said.

## Gorbachev accuses West of spreading arms alarm

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has accused Western statesmen of spreading fear and confusion about the Kremlin's proposals for arms cuts.

He said leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were trying to awaken public fears about Soviet ideas for cutting back medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

They were trying to confuse people, not only about medium-range missiles but also other proposals discussed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his visit to Moscow earlier this month, Mr. Gorbachev said.

His comments, reported by the official news agency TASS, were made during talks with President Hafiz Al Assad of Syria and at a banquet in Mr. Assad's honour Friday night.

The Soviet proposals are being discussed by NATO leaders, some of whom have expressed concern that the removal of shorter-range missiles with a range of 500-1,000 kilometres could affect their "flexible defence" capability.

Moscow and Washington have also agreed in principle to remove all medium-range missiles, with a range of 1,000-5,000 kilometres, from Europe and limit the number of such warheads to 100 elsewhere.

"The very idea of ridding Europe of nuclear missiles is declared to be harmful. It is sad and ludicrous to see all this in print," Mr. Gorbachev said.

On regional conflicts, he said peace settlements could be reached quicker but for U.S. "neoliberalism" — a term used to suggest that Washington was seeking to revive the role of international policeman.

He said Washington was using the Middle East as a "testing ground for its imperialist policy." TASS said Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Assad had concluded that "(Israel and Washington) are

## Assad ends Soviet visit after intense Mideast talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad left the Soviet Union on Saturday after a visit marked by differences about the way to achieve Middle East peace.

The official TASS news agency said Mr. Assad was seen off at a Kremlin ceremony by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The two met briefly after Mr. Assad's arrival on Thursday and had lengthy talks followed by a Kremlin banquet on Friday.

In a dinner speech Friday night Mr. Gorbachev said Moscow would continue to provide military support to Syria, its closest ally in the Middle East. He said cooperation between the two countries was based on "common interests."

But diplomats quoted by Reuters said differences had emerged over issues including Palestinian reunification, the Lebanon conflict, Arab solidarity, the Iran-Iraq war and attempts to arrange an international peace conference on the Middle East.

They said Syria did not fit well into Mr. Gorbachev's new policy of seeking to defuse regional conflicts to build a more stable strategic relationship with the United States.

Mr. Gorbachev alluded in his speech to the foreign policy shift by stressing Soviet interest in a "far-reaching reorganisation" of international relations in tandem with Kremlin moves for internal economic and social reform.

He singled out the Middle East as an area where the Soviet Union strongly sought the settlement of regional conflict and called on Syria to work for Arab solidarity as an indispensable first step to convening an international peace conference.

Mr. Assad said Syria was seeking Arab solidarity on the basis of opposition to the Camp David course — a reference to Egypt's separate 1979 accord with Israel.

On the subject of an international peace conference, which Moscow strongly supports, Mr. Assad said Syria backed the idea if its aim was to end Israeli occupation of land it had held since the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Gorbachev condemned Israel's policies of "force and annexation" and accused Israeli leaders of using "state terror" in efforts to build greater security.

But in his most outspoken comment on the 20-year break in Soviet-Israeli diplomatic ties, he added: "The absence of such relations cannot be considered normal."

He said the Soviet Union unreservedly recognised Israel's right to peace and secure existence and called for good relations between Israel and the Arabs.

TASS said Mr. Gorbachev "warmly bade farewell" to the Syrian leader before Mr. Assad's motorcade, accompanied by an honour guard of motorcyclists, left for the airport.

## Thatcher hints at June polls

LONDON (AP) — With her Conservative Party 15 points ahead in the latest opinion poll, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has hinted strongly that she will call a June election.

After eight years in office, Mrs. Thatcher, 61, said in an interview published Friday in the Daily Express that she was still "bursting with energy" and had no intention of retiring "for a very long time."

Though she doesn't have to call an election until June 1988, Mrs. Thatcher told the House of Commons on Thursday that she expected the electorate to decide on a key welfare issue "very soon." John Biffen, leader of the Commons, later spoke of the "few weeks" remaining to complete parliamentary business.

"I hope and believe we shall win," Mrs. Thatcher was quoted as telling the pro-conservative Daily Express about the election. "I am never complacent and I am never over confident."

For the British media and the two main opposition parties — the Socialist Labour Party and the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic Party — the campaign's opening salvo was fired Thursday when Mrs. Thatcher announced big salary hikes for nurses and other health service workers.

"It's just got to be a June election," headlined Friday's Daily Mail. "Nursing staff given full 9.5 per cent pay rise in run-up to election," headlined the Financial Times. "Labour and Alliance see 9.5 per cent award for nurses as pre-election sweetener," said the Liberal Guardian.

Speculation of a June election was further fuelled by a news leak Friday that Mrs. Thatcher was to give a pep talk to Conservative candidates in central England on Saturday at what was to have been a secret meeting in Birmingham.



# Investigators get major clue to Iran-contra money trail

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Congressional investigators have obtained records which can help them trail where millions of dollars involved in the Iran arms deal were raised and spent, a senate committee spokesman has said.

The records of transactions through secret Swiss bank accounts were turned over in Paris on Monday to two committee members by Iranian-American businessman Alfred Hakim, the spokesman said.

The House of Representatives and Senate investigating committees open hearings on May 5 into the affair involving the sale of U.S. arms to Iran in hope of winning freedom for American hostages held in Lebanon, and the subsequent diversion of profits from the deals to Nicaraguan "contra" rebels.

The committee has also been promised excerpts next week from President Reagan's personal diary relating to the Iran scandal which has rocked his administration.

The president said Friday there was nothing for him to be embarrassed about when the excerpts are made public.

The committee spokesman Friday night refused specific details about the money trail disclosed in the Swiss bank records.

However, a U.S. television news programme said the records indicate \$25 to \$30 million may have been pocketed by middlemen and never reached the contras.

The programme said Hakim's records show \$2.5 to \$3 million went to Hakim and Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar as normal profits for their part in the various deals.

Hakim also told investigators another \$7 million remained in Swiss accounts to be used to finance future arms deals with Iran, the report said.

He confirmed, as Secretary of State George Shultz reported earlier, that \$10 million given by the Sultan of Brunei to aid the contras has simply disappeared from a Swiss account.

Investigators also believe Hakim and his partner, former U.S. Maj.-Gen. Richard Secord, made a large profit by mark-ups on arms they sold the contras which were paid for by \$33 million donated by the Saudi royal family, the programme said.

Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North was fired from his post in Mr. Reagan's National Security Council (NSC) last November 25 for allegedly masterminding the diversion of millions of dollars to the contras. Col. North's boss, Adm. Jobo Poindexter, resigned the same day.

Geo. Secord carried out many of the contra arms operations ordered by Col. North and was also involved in some of the Iran arms shipments.

Mr. Reagan denies an assertion that some writings in presidential diaries might be embarrassing to the president.

"The only thing I'm embarrassed about is my scrawly handwriting," Mr. Reagan joked Friday. "The White House said everything in Mr. Reagan's diaries about the sale of arms to Iran or the alleged diversion of profits to U.S.-backed rebels in Nicaragua will be open to congressional investigators."

The president commented after Senator Daniel Inouye, the chairman of the Senate Select Committee investigating the affair, was quoted in the Washington Post as saying the diaries "could cause some embarrassment."

Sen. Inouye said entries show Mr. Reagan was "rather know-

ledgeable of what happened" instead of being detached and ill-informed as the Tower Commission portrayed him earlier this year after its investigation of Iran-contra affair.

The Senator said "there are some passages in there that may cause some embarrassment and some injury to persons. ... For the president, it will be a mixed bag."

He said the embarrassment would be because "remarks are made about people and recollections of certain dealings with people ... which they thought were off the record."

Asked if the diaries contained anything indicating he knew about any diversion of money to the contras, Mr. Reagan said, "no, because I didn't and still don't. I'm still waiting to find out."

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said that under an agreement with Congress, White House Counsel A.B. Callahan reviewed all of Mr. Reagan's diary entries from Jan. 1, 1984 until Dec. 19, 1986 and culled out all Iran-contra references.

All of the material now is ready for inspection, he said, and leaders of the congressional committees investigating the affair may get their first look next week.

## Djibouti president gets vote of confidence

DJIBOUTI (AP) — President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the sole presidential candidate, won a vote of confidence from 90 per cent of the voters, election officials said Saturday.

Critics of the government had encouraged voters in Friday's presidential and parliamentary elections to boycott the event or deface their ballots to protest the one-party system.

Officials said 619 of the 91,191 presidential ballots cast were defaced. For the National Assembly, 89,329 ballots were cast and 1,280 were defaced.

A list of 65 candidates nominated by Mr. Hassan Gouled's Popular Rally for Progress party received the backing of 87 per cent of the voters.

Voters could only indicate "yes" or "no" to a list of unopposed candidates. Election officials said Mr. Hassan Gouled, who has led this East African nation since its independence from France in 1977, was approved on 90 per cent of the valid ballots.

It was the second presidential election since independence. Djibouti, with 500,000 people, has been a one-party state since 1982.

Officials ordered extra security because of a March 18 bomb blast at a cafe that killed 11 people — five Frenchmen, three West Germans and three Djiboutians.

A high-ranking government official, who asked not to be identified by name, said the government believed the attack was aimed at the French, who were colonial rulers until 1977 and still have a strong presence. There are 9,000 Frenchmen, nearly half of their military personnel, living in Djibouti.

## Reagan pays tribute to U.S.-Morocco peace treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has lauded the preparations being made to observe the bicentennial of a U.S.-Morocco peace treaty.

The anniversary of the treaty of peace and friendship will be commemorated in July. The pact, ratified by the Senate in 1787, was the first treaty between the United States and an Arab state.

"Our governments and peoples are deeply committed to world peace and the principles of democracy, liberty and justice," said Mr. Reagan's statement released by the White House.

"The United States has long supported the moderate and constructive policies of my good friend King Hassan II," Mr. Reagan added.

## Petrovsky starts talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky started talks with Iraqi officials on Moscow's ideas for ending the Gulf war, diplomats said.

They said Petrovsky, who arrived here Friday night on a four-day official visit, saw Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and other officials and to see President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Petrovsky arrived in Iraq's southern city of Basra by road from Kuwait and Soviet embassy officials said he went on to Baghdad by road late Friday night.

He is on the last leg of a tour which has also taken him to

Oman and the United Arab Emirates, where he said he was carrying proposals for Gulf Arab leaders on ending the 6½-year-old war and to guarantee security to shipping in the Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency INA said Mr. Petrovsky toured Basra and deplored the effects of Iranian artillery attacks on residential areas. He was quoted as saying "the issue of ending the war by peaceful means has become a must."

Basra Governor Anwar Saad told Mr. Petrovsky of the city's "heroic steadfastness in deterring repeated Iranian aggression," the agency reported.

This was a reference to Iranian shelling of the city, Iraq's second-largest, during successive Iranian

offensives east of Basra since Jan. 9.

INA said Mr. Petrovsky expressed regret over the shelling. The Soviet Union is a political ally and a major arms supplier to Iraq.

In Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Muscat, Mr. Petrovsky had brought up with officials a Soviet proposal to convene a multi-party conference to discuss means of protecting commercial shipping.

Vessels in the Gulf have been the targets of attacks by Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Petrovsky said in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday that the superpowers were to take "joint steps" for ending the Gulf war within the framework of the United Nations. He did not elaborate.

## U.S. facilitates deportation proceedings of 6 held for violating immigration law

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The government decided to speed up deportation proceedings against six of eight aliens arrested in January by dropping charges that they were affiliated with a Marxist Palestinian group, a federal attorney said.

The six were among seven Arabs and a Kenyan arrested on Jan. 26. The six were accused of overstaying visas and violating immigration law that bars aliens from taking part in "activities promoting world Communism."

William Odencrantz, of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, said Thursday that the charges were dropped as "an

economy of effort" because simple immigration violations would be proven easily.

"The person was admitted, the time has expired, they have not left," he said.

The other two aliens, Khader Musa Hamide, 33, and Michel Ibrahim Nasif Shehadeh, 30, still face charges for promoting Communism. Both are legal residents and do not face the immigration violation charges.

The six affected by the government's action are Asad Khaled Barakat, 26; Naim Nadin Sharif, 28; Bashar Hasan Amer, 24; Julie Nyangumung Mungai, 29, the Kenya-born wife Hamide; Ay-

man Mustafa Obeid, 24, and his brother, Amjad Mustafa Obeid, 23.

Authorities said the eight were affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). All eight have denied affiliation with the PFLP.

The change in the government's position was announced at a meeting between attorneys for the eight aliens and U.S. immigration officials.

The eight were arrested at southern California residences and then imprisoned for more than two weeks. They were released after a Feb. 17 bond hearing.

## Congress not to delve deeply into Israeli role in Iran-contra scandal

WASHINGTON — Hampered by a lack of cooperation and unwilling to buck strong pro-Israeli sentiment on Capitol Hill, House and Senate investigating committees don't intend to delve deeply into Israel's role in the Iran-contra scandal.

The two committees set up to investigate the affair haven't demanded direct testimony, copies of financial records, or answers to detailed questions about Israeli involvement in the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, according to lawmakers and law enforcement officials.

As a result, according to these sources, the congressional hearings beginning next month won't provide substantial new information about the activities of Israel

involved in the affair.

Critics — including a number of criminal investigators working for independent counsel Lawrence Walsh — fault some leaders of the House and Senate select committees for failing to aggressively demand more information and speedier responses from Tel Aviv.

These critics contend that Congress, because it controls the flow of U.S. aid to Tel Aviv, has a much better chance than Mr. Walsh does to pin down the Israeli role.

Israel is expected to provide a chronological summary of its version of the financial transactions involving the arms sales in the next few days, according to Israeli officials. But since the report isn't expected to include

testimony from Israeli citizens, it isn't likely to resolve many of the questions confronting investigators. The Israeli government hasn't allowed Mr. Walsh or members of the presidentially appointed Tower Commission to interview Israeli citizens.

In the early stages of the Reagan administration's secret Iran initiative, Israel acted as a conduit for U.S. arms sales to Iran. Investigators believe Israeli officials and private arms dealers could supply the congressional panels with details on how Iran came to pay inflated prices for U.S. arms and where the extra proceeds went — including whether they were made to Iranian officials — The Wall Street Journal.

## Belgium to reopen mission in west Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Belgian embassy will resume limited consular services in west Beirut, two years after closing its diplomatic mission in the capital's Muslim sector, newspapers reported Saturday.

An advertisement published by Beirut's newspapers, including the leading An Nahar and As Safir, said the Belgian consulate in west Beirut would render services on Tuesday and Thursday

every week.

Its reopening would bring to six the number of Western diplomatic missions that reactivated limited services in west Beirut after Syria deployed 7,500 troops in the city's mainly Muslim half on Feb. 22.

The countries with limited diplomatic representation, mainly on the consular level, in west Beirut are Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Holland.

Belgium moved its embassy two years ago from Verdun Street in west Beirut to the relative safety of the Christian eastern sector of the capital.

All Western diplomatic missions, with the exception of Greece, fled west Beirut in the last two years following a spate of attacks by Shi'ite Muslim extremists against foreigners and diplomats.

## Islamic symposium bars some 'test tube' fertilisations

KUWAIT (AP) — A symposium on Islamic jurisprudence of the medical profession has sanctioned the donation of human parts, but prohibited the transfer of a fertilised egg to another woman's womb.

The aim appeared to be barring "test-tube" pregnancies by unmarried people. Instead, the egg taken from a woman must be returned to her womb after fertilisation by her husband's sperm.

About 150 prominent Islamic intellectuals and specialists in Islamic Sharia Law took part in the three-day seminar chaired by Kuwait's Health Minister, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

Dr. Awadi doubles as chairman of the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences. An account of the symposium's recommendations, issued Thursday, was distributed by the Kuwait News Agency.

The symposium upheld the secrecy of patients' health conditions, but made permissible the disclosure of secrets "if deemed in the interest of society ... to prevent corruption related to religion, the body, the mind, resources or offspring."

## Iran protests at Australian TV programme

CANBERRA (R) — Iran has made an official protest to Australia about a sketch on a satirical television programme which it claims defamed Islam and Iranian values.

The Australian ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry Friday and handed a note protesting at last Monday's programme, "The Dingo Principle," screened nationally by the government-run ABC Network.

The official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said the ambassador was told that "acts which harm the sentiments of the Iranian nation will evoke a strong and suitable response," the domestic Australian News Agency said.

In a similar incident in February, Iran expelled two West German diplomats after a satirical sketch showing Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini receiving gifts of women's underwear was shown on West German television.

The Australian sketch included a mock interview of the Ayatollah by a veiled woman reporter which ended with the Iranian leader threatening to "blow up the world."

The Iranian ambassador to Australia, Ahmad Attri, said Saturday he had personally informed Tehran by post about the sketch. Mr. Attri said he had also asked the Australian Foreign Affairs Department what action it could take over the programme and if it could prevent similar satires on Iran being aired in the future.

"They justified it by saying they had no influence on media programmes and reports," Mr. Attri said.

"It is a matter of concern to us as programmes like this are affecting Islam and its values in

the eyes of Australians.

"If people like (American president) Mr. Reagan are happy to have jokes made about them on television shows, it does not follow that we feel the same way about attacks on our religion and our values," Mr. Attri said.

A Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said Mr. Attri had been informed that the Australian government did not take responsibility for what was shown on ABC and it was out of the government's practice to censor programmes.

"It is one of those incidents which occur from time to time. There is no talk of further action at this moment but there may be other action taken (by the Iranians)," he told Reuters.

The programme's producer Frank Ward said the sketch had not been intended to offend anyone.

## Turkish rights leader criticises prison conditions

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Human Rights Association Chairman Nevzat Helvacı declared Saturday that prison conditions in Turkey fail to meet international accepted minimum standards.

He said in a statement that prisons were not fit for human habitation and urged the authorities to apply the standards laid down by the United Nations in 1955.

The conditions set minimum standards on hygiene, health ser-

vices, clothing, food and inmates' rights to complain.

A 60-page report issued with the statement listed acceptable minimum conditions in prisons and printed letters and newspaper and magazine reports on detainees saying conditions were far below the required levels.

The letters in the report complained of torture, maltreatment by prison officials and filthy surroundings. Mr. Helvacı said the associa-

tion would closely follow whether the standards are applied in prisons in future.

The Human Rights Association, set up last year, complained earlier this year that many prisoners were subjected to torture. Mr. Helvacı, a lawyer, said at least 149 people had died in detention since 1980, many from torture.

The government denies that torture is systematic and says that individual cases are always brought before the courts.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7711-19	
<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b>	
15:30	Koran
15:35	Programme Review
15:45	Wildlife
16:30	A Whole World of Brakes
17:00	Give Me a Brake
17:30	World Alive
18:00	Local Agricultural Programme
18:30	Local Series
19:30	Local Programme
19:50	Programme Review
20:30	News in Arabic
20:35	Arabic series
21:30	Faces and Events (Arabic)
22:00	Local variety programme
22:30	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme contd.
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
17:30	La vie de Famille
19:00	News in French
19:15	La force du destin
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:40	Varities
20:30	News in Arabic
21:10	Growing Pains
21:30	Secret Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Robbery Under Arms (mini series)
<b>RADIO JORDAN</b>	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 950 KHz, SW	
Tel: 7711-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Pop Session
11:30	In Concert
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Talk
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
15:00	Science Report
16:00	Concert Hour
16:30	News Summary
16:45	Old Favourites
17:00	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Jazz Hour
19:00	Newsweek
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:30	Evening Show contd.
21:55	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>	
<b>EXHIBITIONS</b>	
An exhibition of children's books from Britain at Abdul Hameed Shamsi Foundation in Shamsi (April 26-28)	
An art exhibition by Ahmad Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre (until May 6)	
<b>CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL</b>	
2nd Spring Festival for children, at the Royal Cultural Centre, (until April 28)	
<b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	American Centre .. 64471
American Centre Library .. 64172	British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	Gottlieb Institute .. 641953
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64203	Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777	Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Husseini Youth City .. 6671805	Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 646251	Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843335	
<b>MUSEUMS</b>	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal' ( Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim coun-	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights (Terminal 1)	
11:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:25	Jeddah (RJ)
11:30	Kuwait (RJ)
11:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:30	Cairo, Asmara (RJ)
12:35	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:45	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:55	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
13:35	Geneva (RJ)
13:40	Algiers (RJ)
13:45	London (RJ)
13:50	Paris, Geneva (RJ)
14:00	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
14:05	Baghdad (RJ)
<b>Other flights (Terminal 2)</b>	
10:00	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
12:30	Cairo (MS)
12:45	Kuwait (MS)
13:30	Jeddah (SV)
13:40	Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:45	Kuwait (KU)
15:00	Dubai (EK)
17:30	Baghdad (IA)
17:35	Athens, Damascus (OA)
18:10	Frankfurt (LH)
18:45	London, Cairo (BA)
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights (Terminal 1)	
08:45	Agaba (RJ)
09:00	Algiers (RJ)
11:20	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30	Athens (RJ)
12:35	Cairo (RJ)
13:40	Jeddah (RJ)
14:00	Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:05	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
14:30	Baghdad (RJ)
15:15	Damascus (RJ)
15:20	Cairo (RJ)
15:30	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
15:35	Bangkok (RJ)
<b>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</b>	
09:40	Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:30	Rome (AZ)
11:20	Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
13:20	Cairo (MS)
14:00	Tripoli (LN)
15:00	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:00	Jeddah (SV)
15:45	Kuwait (KU)
16:00	Dubai (EK)
16:20	Athens (OA)
16:30	Baghdad (IA)
18:00	Sana'a (LH)
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	
06:27	Fajr
06:52	Sunrise/Dhuha
12:34	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:15	Maghreb
20:40	'Isha
<b>MONEY EXCHANGE</b>	
Local sell/buy rates in Jds	
Belgian franc	67.77 / 89.4
Dutch guilder	162.8 / 164.7
French franc	55.1 / 55.6
Italian lire	25.5 / 26
Japanese yen (for 100)	235.4 / 237.2
Swedish crown	52.9 / 53.9
Swiss franc	224.8 / 228.5
U.K. sterling pound	544.9 / 551.3
U.S. dollar	327.9 / 330.8
W. German mark	183.8 / 186.4
<b>WEATHER</b>	
Bulletins supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A drop in temperature is expected, with the appearance of low clouds, and chance for scattered showers. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	8 / 21
Agaba	12 / 25
Desert	9 / 25
Jordan Valley	12 / 26
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Agaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Agaba 20 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Brd.	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qawmishah	770733



## Fayez back from Iraq after meeting Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez returned to Amman on Saturday at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq where he held meetings with Dr. Saddam Hussein, speaker of the Iraqi National Council.

Mr. Fayez was also received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with whom he reviewed developments in the Gulf war and Arab affairs.

Mr. Fayez described his meetings with Iraqi leaders as "fruitful and successful" and said that his talks with Dr. Hussein were comprehensive, covering bilateral cooperation in parliamentary affairs and inter-Arab parliamentary cooperation.

Mr. Fayez said that issues pertaining to the Arab Parliamentary Union and its activities were also discussed during his meetings in Baghdad.

Returning with Mr. Fayez was Mr. Zaid Zureiqat, director of parliamentary affairs at the Lower House of Parliament.

## Dajani opens symposium for provincial governors

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the role and duties of provincial governors in the country was opened in Amman on Saturday by Minister of Interior Rajat Dajani who underlined the importance of decentralisation to national development.

Mr. Dajani told the audience of governors gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre that provincial governors can provide a contribution to development because of their close contact with local communities and local problems. The main target of local government, he said, should be the security and safety of local inhabitants, an essential element for the prosperity of any society.

Jordanian legislation has granted provincial rulers legal au-

thority to supervise the implementation of rules and regulations, and safeguard the public interest, the minister pointed out. He said that provincial governors could oversee the implementation of projects included in the five-year national development plan, and can also promote the work of the Ministry of Interior through their initiatives.

In the first working session, attended by the ministry's Under Secretary Ahmad Aqileh, a working paper on the powers given to provincial governors was reviewed. The opening session was attended by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and several under-secretaries of different ministries.

## UAE agriculture minister arrives on 4-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Said Mohammad Al Ruqhani arrived here Saturday at the head of a seven-member delegation on a four-day official visit to Jordan. In an arrival statement Mr. Ruqhani said that he was carrying the greetings and best wishes of UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people. He said that he and Minister of Agriculture Mar-

wan Al Hmoud would discuss existing relations between Jordan and the UAE and the possibility of exchanging experiences in the fields of fisheries and agricultural research as well as means of further promoting bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector.

The UAE minister will also acquaint himself with the agricultural projects being carried out in Jordan and with the Jordanian experience in agricultural development. The visit is at the invitation of Mr. Hmoud.

## PNC ends session

(Continued from page 1)

day, was sparked by a demand by Mr. Arafat that it be amended before final endorsement.

Informed sources said the sought-for amendments meant the removal of the stipulation that relations with Egypt be governed under resolutions adopted by the 16th session of the PNC as well as Arab summit resolutions.

These resolutions called for isolation of Egypt as long as Cairo followed the 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel and said relations with Egypt be contingent on the Cairo government distancing itself from the treaty.

Another amendment sought by Mr. Arafat was a tribute to the Egyptian army and people for their struggle against Israel. This amendment was incorporated into the final resolution.

Earlier, the PFLP and DFLP threatened to quit the PNC if the sought-for amendments were incorporated.

Informed sources said it was after intense Algerian and Soviet mediation that the compromise was reached. Algerian party leader Mohammed Sherif Massadiyeh held a closed meeting with Mr. Arafat late Saturday evening. The meeting was followed by another attended by the Soviet ambassador to Algeria.

The compromise saved the council session, described as the "PNC reunification session" after years of bitter feuds and in-fighting, from total failure.

The PNC session also endorsed a series of organisational reforms which heralded strict limitations over the powers of the PLO chairman.

The council session was expected to conclude here on Saturday but the closing session was delayed because of the dispute over Egypt which rose to the surface after Mr. Arafat insisted on having a free hand in maintaining relations with Cairo, contrary to an earlier agreement with the PFLP and DFLP.

Mr. Arafat's new stand was the result of a message he received earlier in the day from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in protest against the resolution that was endorsed by the PNC on Saturday. The resolution, which was thrashed out after hours of lengthy deliberations of the political committee of the PNC, stipulated that the issue of relations with Egypt would be left to the new executive committee of the PLO which was expected to be named at the concluding session of the council.

The resolution was seen as a compromise formula between the hardline stands of George Habash of the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP and Mr. Arafat's insistence that the door

be kept open for relations with Egypt. While the PLO chairman hoped that it would not provoke a harsh Egyptian reaction, Dr. Habash and Mr. Hawatmeh appeared to be satisfied that the new executive committee would be able to control the actions of Mr. Arafat.

The simmering dispute over Egypt was a key issue ever since the PNC opened its 18th session here on Monday, and it appeared early Saturday that the compromise formula had managed to settle the row. Journalists were awaiting the final communiqué of the PNC session Saturday evening, but the whole situation changed when Mr. Arafat, in a meeting of the political committee, asked for the amendments to the compromise resolution.

The main factor that brought about a shift in Mr. Arafat's stand from early Saturday was Mr. Mubarak's message, which, according to sources, indicated that Egypt was "on the verge of closing down PLO offices in its territory."

An Egyptian delegation which was attending the PNC session as observers left Algiers on Saturday, reports said. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying in Cairo that the delegation was called back in protest against what it described as "anti-Egyptian debate" going on in the PNC.

Informed sources said Mr. Mubarak's message to Mr. Arafat also accused the PLO of "trying to drive a wedge between the Egyptian government and its people." Apparently, the stand by the hardline factions here that the PLO could continue contacts with "progressive and nationalist forces in Egypt and the Egyptian masses" sparked this particular reference in the message.

Earlier, other sources said Mr. Arafat had suggested the issue of relations with Egypt be put to an open vote at the PNC session, but the hardline factions as well as some Fateh leaders opposed such a move.

Observers noted that Mr. Arafat could not turn down Algerian requests to ensure the unity of the PLO, because rejecting Algerian mediation would mean that the PLO chairman was shouldering the sole responsibility for the failure of the council session.

This would also discredit Mr. Arafat in Soviet eyes, since Moscow was one of the driving forces behind the PNC's "reunification session," the observers said.

At the same time, the PFLP and DFLP could also not afford to be seen as having caused the PNC failure since both factions enjoy wide Soviet support.

Mr. Arafat was expected to travel to Moscow immediately after the conclusion of the PNC.

## Prince Hassan graduates first batch of People's Army cadets from Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — The first batch of Yarmouk University student recruits in the People's Army graduated here Saturday in a ceremony held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The ceremony, held at Yarmouk University, was addressed by Prince Hassan who conveyed to the 1,838 recruits greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and praised the young men's patriotism.

Prince Hassan urged the graduates to use their training to assist the medical corps of the armed forces in providing first aid, civil defence, and nursing operations.

The People's Army commander made a speech at the outset of the graduation ceremony in which he praised King Hussein's decision to form the People's Army so that all members of the public could take part in the defence of the nation and in the process of regaining Arab land.

The ceremony included a display of the graduates' skills in dismantling and reassembling various light arms, fire-fighting exercises, hand-to-hand combat and target shooting.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Prince Hassan distributed awards to the graduates and presented the People's Army shield to Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, Yarmouk University president, and the university shield to the commander of the People's Army. The training course started at the beginning of the second university term in January 1987.

Prince Mohammad graduates special cadets

Also Saturday His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein,



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday graduates the first batch of People's Army cadets from Yarmouk University (Petra photo)



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday presents certificates to a group of special forces trainees who completed training at the Public Security Department (Petra photo)

patronised the graduation ceremony for a group of special police forces. Prince Mohammad watched a demonstration of several exercises including hand-to-hand fighting, storming, rescue works, shooting, crossing suspended bridges and scaling high places. Prince Mohammad presented prizes to those who excelled in the training course and to the trainers.

The ceremony was attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the commander of the special police forces as well as high ranking public security and armed forces officers.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Decree okays envoys' appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving a Cabinet decision appointing Mr. Awwad Al Khalidi as Jordan's non-residential ambassador to Cyprus and Mr. Mohammad Afanah as Jordan's ambassador to Sudan. Another Royal Decree was issued approving the appointment of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib as acting finance minister during the absence of Finance Minister Hanna Odeh outside the country on an official mission.

### Tunisian foreign minister due today

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Ali Hadi Al Mabrouk is due here today on a two-day visit to Jordan and to hold talks with senior Jordanian government officials, including Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri. The talks are expected to cover Arab affairs and cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia. Mr. Mabrouk is also scheduled to tour a number of tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

### Jordan ships more cement to Egypt

AQABA (Petra) — A cargo ship with 22,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement left Aqaba for Egypt on Friday. The shipment is part of a bilateral agreement for exporting one million tonnes of Jordanian cement to Egypt. With the new shipment Jordan has to date exported 209,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt in accordance with the agreement.

### Man dies after being kicked by horse

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 38-year-old Egyptian was killed on Thursday after being kicked in the chest by a mare while working on a farm near the Ajlun area of Zarqa Governorate, according to a report in the local Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab. In Amman a 19-year-old man tried to commit suicide by swallowing a razor blade but he failed and sustained injuries in the mouth and throat. An attempted murder occurred on Friday in Amman when a 21-year-old man was shot several times and injured in the foot. The man was taken to hospital and the police started investigations into the incident.

### University marks nursing day

IRBID (Petra) — The University of Science and Technology's nursing faculty Saturday held a nursing day during which several working papers on the nursing profession and the work of nurses were discussed. The papers also covered hospital care for patients and the administration of medicine and other related topics. Among the main speakers was Dr. Fayez Khasawneh, dean of the Faculty of Nursing, who said that the observance of nursing day reflects the university's keenness on projecting the humanitarian role of nurses and their essential service to community.

### Education team back from Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — A Ministry of Education delegation returned to Amman from Kuwait on Saturday after a week-long visit at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education. During the visit, the delegation held several meetings with senior officials at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education to discuss educational issues which concern the two countries, especially in the field of educational studies and researches.

### GUVS starts study on voluntary work

AMMAN (Petra) — The social studies and research centre at the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Saturday started a study on the economics of social and voluntary work in Jordan and its impact on the national economy. The study is aimed at examining the economic aspect of social work with view to modernising and upgrading the work of GUVS. The study will deal with economics, general spending, efficiency and geographical distribution of social and voluntary work in the country. The study will be confined to models and samples taken from 60 charitable societies in the East and West Banks of Jordan.

### Meeting to discuss joint Arab industries

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting on coordination between Arab organisations and joint Arab companies to promote joint industrial projects will open here Monday at the Arab Mining Company. The two-day meeting will discuss a working paper by the Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO) on a proposed plan for coordination between Arab organisations and joint Arab companies in promoting industrial projects. Participants will also discuss an AIDO trend to transfer national projects into joint Arab projects.

## Ministry-sponsored meeting approves health scheme for private sector employees

Insurance fund to cover a million beneficiaries

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting held on Saturday approved in principle Jordan's proposed health insurance fund which covers the private sector's employees and families. Some participants, however, voiced reservations over the project's financial terms.

If properly executed, the fund is designed to cover one million beneficiaries — private sector employees and their families — eventually leading to a comprehensive health insurance scheme for all citizens. This fund takes into consideration the existing services offered to members and families of the civil and military services.

Studies conducted by various bodies from the private and public sector have estimated the scheme's operational cost per annum at JD 60 million. The funding is to come from employees, employers, the Health Ministry and the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Saturday's assembly, grouping officials and representatives from more than 35 leading businesses, unions, federations and associations, agreed to the concept of a health insurance fund, but remained strongly opposed to the financing scheme. The conferees' ideas reflected similar themes voiced by various columns and press reports which appeared in Jordan's newspapers recently.

While there appears to be widespread support for some type of a unified health insurance system, opposition has come from representatives of more than 3,000 companies who expressed their reservations in letters submitted to the Health Ministry. These companies have argued that their employees are already receiving partial or total health insurance coverage, and that such a scheme will only have a negative impact on their annual budgets, since they will be required to raise their allocations for health treatment.

Other companies have cited the present regional economic recession and said such a plan would force them to lay off some of their employees in order to compensate for their share in such a fund.

Most of the companies have voiced their concern that such a fund will clash with the duties of the SSC which is supposed to cover the employees' health insurance in accordance with its founding charter. However, SSC officials have made it clear that their organisation was not ready to shoulder responsibilities which are not among its present priorities, which are restricted to insurance for occupational injuries and for old age, disability or death.

Some of the participants voiced their concern that such a fund would create a "new red tape" organisation, and would eventually impose restraints on patients, and would adversely affect the price and the quality of treatment offered.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who chaired the gathering, said the whole idea behind the fund was to help all socio-economic levels of private sector employees through the concept of "social

solidarity." (al takaful) Defending the scheme, which originated from the Higher Health Council, Dr. Hamzeh said that a lot of the ordinary labourers employed by organisations here had no health insurance; even those who have insurance don't have coverage for their families and other dependents.

For the sake of discussion, the minister requested the gathering to stop focusing on the financial terms of the fund and to pay greater attention to the health services it is to offer.

Admitting that the preliminary "financial terms," provided in the Higher Council's draft were inaccurate and needed "reevaluation," Dr. Hamzeh said that Jordan should find means to "ensure health services for all at a lower price and with excellent standards." "We don't want to impose our project on any sector. We would like to see our present ambitions reflected in a scenario you are to prepare," he said addressing the three-hour long meeting.

While "you are to prepare the fund's framework, and sort out its financial and legal aspects as well as the services," and its actual tables and policy premiums, "we are to draft legislation for the fund reflecting your ideas," said the minister, who chairs the Higher Health Council. "What we aim at achieving is not to be gained at the expense of both the private sector and our national economy," he stressed.

At the suggestion of Dr. Hamzeh, the assembly formed a four-member committee to probe into suggestions raised during the assembly and find alternative solutions for all queries. The committee groups representatives from the General Federation of Labour Unions, the General Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the SSC, the Chamber of Industry. Their suggestions are to be considered by the Higher Health Council, which will decide whether the scheme will be executed or put on hold like the three previous drafts for a national health insurance scheme for the private sector.

## PSD to increase radar surveillance on roads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has decided to employ radar on a greater number of roads in Jordan in order to curb speeding and reduce the number of accidents, according to PSD Director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali. Lt.-Gen. Majali said that other measures to be introduced include: increasing public awareness about the dangers of violating traffic rules, intensified enforcement of fines for motorists who violate regulations on passenger capacity, speeding, reckless driving and bad overtaking.

Addressing a meeting of directors of police units gathered to discuss traffic problems in the Kingdom, Lt.-Gen. Majali said that an agreement has been reached with Radio Jordan to present daily programmes to inform motorists of the condition of roads, to instruct them on where traffic congestion is located.

The meeting was attended by senior PSD officers.

## Arab union discusses means to support contracting sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Contractors Union (ACU) executive bureau opened its 14th session on Saturday at the Jordanian Contractors Association under the chairmanship of ACU President Abdul Rahim Al Hjouji. In their first session, participants discussed a number of topics related to supporting Arab contractors through projects financed by Arab funds and by giving priority to Arab contractors.

They also discussed coordination with the Arab-Afro bank for development and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support Arab contracting works in projects financed by the two banks. The participants also discussed an initiative taken by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development which

entrusted the union with conducting comprehensive studies to develop the Arab contracting industry.

During the two-day meeting the participants will also discuss the ACU's future plans and budget besides other internal issues.

The meetings are being attended by delegates from Jordan, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and North Yemen.

Mr. Hjouji said that the union's future plan provides for supporting and encouraging Arab contractors to enable them to compete with foreign contractors in bidding for international tenders.

## JVA supplied Amman with 18m cubic metres of water last winter via Deir Alla

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) last winter supplied Amman with 18 million cubic metres of drinking water via the Deir Alla water project in the Jordan Valley region. JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said in a settlement on Saturday.

He said that water from Deir Alla will continue to be pumped to Amman during the coming summer after being purified at the water treatment station at Zay. Referring to the amounts of water stored behind Jordan's dams, Dr. Bani Hani said that reports about 100 million cubic metres of water in the reservoirs are largely exaggerated. He said that rain water stored in the reservoirs this year has not yet reached the level of 68 million cubic metres. The water stored behind the King Talal Dam is estimated at 41 million cubic metres, Wadi Al Arah dam at 18 million and the remainder is stored in dams in the Jordan Valley.

The JVA has recently raised the height of the King Talal Dam by 16 metres which increased the reservoir's storage capacity to 90 million cubic metres. But work is



## Mercedes-Benz Symposium for the Arab World

Daimler-Benz AG, manufacturers of renowned Mercedes-Benz passenger cars and commercial vehicles, have chosen the city of Amman for their Arab World symposium on the importance of after-sales service with special emphasis on the use of genuine approved replacement parts. Jordan, being the main transit centre for the Middle East transport industry, has been chosen for this conference for the 19 Mercedes-Benz general agents represented by their general managers and parts managers.

Daimler-Benz, which is responsible for this symposium, is supported by Messrs. T. Gargour & Fils Co., sole agent for Mercedes-Benz in Jordan for more than 30 years and acting as host for some 50 participants.

The symposium is taking place in the Marriott Hotel from April 25-27, 1987. Approved Mercedes-Benz original parts, enjoying the same high quality-reputation as Mercedes-Benz cars, trucks and buses, plus the assurance of efficient maintenance and repair facilities are the basis for the expanding after-sales service support Daimler-Benz provides its customers in the Middle East.

Daimler-Benz AG, through continuous training by field-service personnel and their central training facilities in Stuttgart/West Germany, has achieved a motivation and spirit in their Arab World partners, which has helped to create the confidence placed in these efforts by the growing number of Mercedes-Benz clients.

The symposium's purpose is to review the training and marketing measures with a view to expand and improve Arab and world wide parts-service facilities and enhance Mercedes-Benz customers satisfaction and loyalty.

Some Mercedes-Benz customers have experienced disappointment and damage to their vehicle by the use of non-original, also called "will-fit" parts bought by certain service-and-repair-shops because of their lower costs compared to the original and approved Mercedes-Benz parts.

The symposium will highlight the benefits and long-life performance by the use of tested, approved, genuine Mercedes-Benz parts. The symposium is finally a valuable forum for the Daimler-Benz agents to be informed of the latest product developments, modern quality controls and fast supply channels to customers. It is equally of importance for Daimler-Benz Co. itself to learn from their agents and Mercedes-Benz customers, what improvements in both, product and organisation, are recommended to assure the Mercedes-Benz car, truck and bus customer of the long-term benefits of using Mercedes-Benz products.

Daimler-Benz has invited the Arab and especially the Jordanian press to discuss its after-sales activities in the Arab World at the end of the symposium.



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### Eyes on Europe

THE message that President of the European Community's Executive Commission Jacques Delors sent on the 30th anniversary of the EC should be read and understood not only by Europeans. We in the Arab World, perhaps more than any other peoples on earth, need to think about it and see for ourselves what lesson there is for us to learn from the ideas contained in it. The history and socio-political experiences of the European are not necessarily the same as ours; they are nonetheless relevant and useful, and from them we can draw conclusions that could serve our development process and future progress.

The greatest lesson we in the Arab World can draw from the European experience is of course the need to end our differences and to cooperate and work with each other in the common interest of all of us. The people of Europe had fought so many wars among themselves, but they have come to realise that there is no alternative to cooperation and fraternity for the benefit of all. Why should we Arabs not learn from the lessons of history and cut short the period of fratricidal wars that we have been fighting, in favour of building for our common future and unity?

It is probably okay for some to say it took the Europeans so long and cost them so much to bring themselves into a civilised, productive community; and that it would naturally take us some more time and wars to get to that stage of development. But is it not also hypocritical and wrong for those among us who use this reasoning not to themselves work for avoiding all the impending suffering and bloodshed and start now to at least build the Arab World into a community like the EC? If Arab unity is indeed difficult, almost impossible at this stage, why do we not start at where the Europeans did 30 years ago? Do Arab regimes not owe that much to their peoples?

We look at the experience of the European Community, on the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, and ask ourselves: Can't the Arab World do as well? Do we not need to act now, before it is too late and costly?

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: No to separate deals

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Jordan is now eligible for concluding a peace treaty with Israel, to become the second Arab country after Egypt to do so. This is clearly intended to create dissension among Arabs and is a campaign to mislead world public opinion, because Shamir realises too well that Jordan is committed to the idea of an international peace conference with the participation of all concerned parties and has never contemplated the idea of holding separate talks with Israel to reach a partial settlement. Partial solutions can never result in a comprehensive peace which Jordan has been advocating all along. Therefore, Shamir's campaign is bound to end up in total failure and meet the same fate of previous propaganda campaigns directed against Jordan. Shamir's statement that the PLO constitutes a far greater danger to Jordan than Israel, is clearly meant to draw a wedge between the PLO and Jordan, and therefore, it is an object of ridicule. Any differences between the PLO and Jordan should be understood as a manifestation of different views about the most suitable and proper means of regaining Arab rights usurped by Israel. The Jordanians and Palestinians are fused into one entity, and both sides have no real differences. The only and basic difference is that one which separates Israel from the Arabs whose lands have been usurped and their rights and territory stolen. Jordan is totally committed to its national stand, and will certainly not enter into separate deals with Israel and can by no means reach a separate peace treaty with the Jewish state.

#### Al Dustour: Israel prepares for aggression

ISRAEL has paved for a new large-scale aggression on South Lebanon following a series of raids on specific areas in that territory especially those that are close to the coast. The raids and the expected aggression are both intended to stifle the resistance and to remove all forms of anti-Israeli elements in the southern regions of Lebanon. Israel has maintained air raids on Palestinian refugee camps and carried out numerous ground offensives in the region of South Lebanon in a bid to discover the positions of the resistance and also to spread terror among the local inhabitants and force them to abandon their homes when the time comes for the expected aggression. Perhaps the presence of numerous media representatives and journalists in South Lebanon at present is another indication that the Israelis intend to launch a new offensive. For its part, the Lebanese government has informed the ambassadors of foreign countries of the real situation and also briefed the United Nations Security Council about Israel's intentions and its massing of troops along the border and the constant raids it launches on innocent civilians. We are closely watching the situation in South Lebanon and hope that any new Israeli aggression will serve as a unifying element, pooling the resources of all Lebanese factions in the face of the invaders and joining all groups into fight for freedom.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Arab leaders intensify peace efforts

ARAB leaders are continuing their moves on the international scene in order to gain more and more support for their nation's struggle to achieve peace based on justice. Following King Hussein's recent visit to Europe and upon the conclusion of King Fahd's visits to Britain and France, President Hafez Al Assad of Syria has gone to Moscow for talks on the prospects of peace. Both Moscow and Damascus support the idea of an international peace conference and they maintain that no durable solution for the Middle East problem can be reached outside the framework of international legitimacy and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab land occupied since 1967. Arab leaders' drive to convene the conference is bound to isolate those countries that still refuse the idea of peace and expose them as real obstacles in the path of peace. The Soviet-Syrian talks form an important move towards containing the danger that has been threatening the Middle East in general and Syria in particular because Syria has special responsibilities in Lebanon and is always facing the prospect of Israeli aggression. We feel confident that Arab leaders' moves on the international scene would crystallise at the end, and result in the emergence of unanimous stand in favour of the peace conference.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Bouncing cheques: There is a solution

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THERE is a big noise about the problem of cheques that bounce due to insufficient funds. This problem is not new. It has been with us since we became familiar with banks and started to pay by cheques. The growth in dealing with cheques as means for payment has, no doubt, been accompanied by a corresponding growth in bouncing cheques.

Contrary to the general impression, the phenomenon of bouncing cheques has not worsened in recent years. As a matter of fact the number and value of bouncing cheques have been declining, but the sensitivity of people towards financial difficulties and troubles has been rising all the time.

To prove this, we point out to the fact that bouncing cheques at the Clearing House of the Central Bank of Jordan during 1986 amounted to 160,700 cheques, 5,000 cheques below the level of 1985. The value of these cheques was JD 155.4 million against JD 176.6 million in the year before, a substantial improvement of JD 21.2 million or 12 per cent. Bouncing cheques were always in the neighbourhood of 3 per cent of cheques despatched for clearing.

Amman Chamber of Commerce has perceived bouncing cheques as a potential problem to the business sector and has accordingly asked a local consulting firm to conduct a study on the subject. Several years ago, the Jordanian Banks Association thought of bouncing cheques as a problem facing banks, and studied the matter.

The problem of bouncing cheques can be dealt with by exactly the above-mentioned two sectors, mainly the trading businesses

and the commercial banks. Unless they act, the country might need a new legislation to compel them to, a measure that is most needed to restore and maintain public confidence in dealing with cheques.

Traders should not demand post-dated cheques from a customer when they know that the issuer does not own the cover in his bank account at the time of writing the cheque. Such a trader is evidently an accomplice in wrongdoing, because he knows that the cheque is no more than a promise to pay.

Commercial banks on the other hand should not issue cheque books to whoever opens a current account and deposit a negligible amount. They should first satisfy themselves that the customer is honest, understands his obligations, respects the law and does not habitually issue cheques without sufficient cover. Black lists are now available to bankers but unfortunately they are not consulted.

As long as traders ask for, or accept post-dated cheques to trap the customer and threaten legal action in the future, and as long as commercial banks are eager to open accounts and issue cheque-books without proper investigation, the phenomenon of bouncing cheques will persist.

An amendment to the existing legislation dealing with this problem should include the reduction of punishment to the crime of issuing cheques without sufficient funds to become one week of imprisonment, instead of the unreasonable six months to three years, or the reduction of the fine to two per cent of the cheque value. In this manner, punishment would not be impossible, and

judges would not have to search for all reasons and excuses to avoid the extremely harsh punishment prescribed in the current law.

Those who accept post-dated cheques in bad faith, knowing that the drawer does not own the cover, should be treated as accomplices in the offence, or at least be prevented from suing by virtue of the cheque except as an evidence of debt and not a form of payment.

Commercial banks in turn should be obliged to honour cheques written on their own stationary to the extent of say JD 50, irrespective of the sufficiency of funds in the account of the drawer. In such cases the bank should allow the account to be overdrawn and look for its own customer for reimbursement. Under such regulation, banks would not take the practice lightly. They would do some homework before issuing cheque books recklessly.

This method would of course cost banks some money, which is a needed incentive. We should not forget that chequing accounts do not earn interest. Banks should therefore be able to tolerate some cost of maintaining current accounts in proportion to their negligence in investigating new customers, and for not closing old accounts operated by customers who were not trustworthy.

We have tried to state the problem without exaggeration, and put forward the solution that worked in advanced countries such as France. If we do not act in time, we might have to wait for the outcome of more future studies which, after all, might not come out with any better solutions.

## 30 years of the EC: What future for a united Europe

By Jacques Delors

The writer is the president of the European Community's Executive Commission. He wrote this article on the occasion of the EC's 30th anniversary.

1957-1987. The European Community is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. It is a time for Europeans, whether in politics or in any other walk of life to pause and think about what has been accomplished and what still has to be done. A partial balance sheet which, quite naturally, dwells more readily on the work that still lies ahead, rather than on progress already made.

After a long history of fratricidal wars, Europeans have at last opted in favour of peace, conciliation and permanent dialogue, the difficult but patient search for common solutions for a future

which hereafter we know will be shared. This has been done thanks to the European Community. For all those who have not themselves known war in Europe, and today they are in the majority, this fundamental mutation is taken for an established fact, the importance and fragility of which at times they do not suspect. But they are astonished that it is not translated more rapidly and positively into a true European union.

The great majority of Europe's citizens want to see that union come about. A great majority of them, as the opinion polls tell us, believe that their country's belonging to the Community is important. Two thirds of our citizens think that belonging to the Community already brings benefits but are calling for a

future in which there will be a united states of Europe with, among other things, a European President, common currency and defence, a European television system and so on.

Without doubt the aspirations and desires of Europeans themselves go well beyond the sloth of government apparatus, the inhibiting hand of bureaucracy, the procrastination of politicians.

But what does this grand design for Europe imply for the countries of the Third World? What is in it for them? The reply is not up to us. Everybody will make his own analysis no doubt putting the following questions:

— Is not a unified Europe better able to contribute to peace than a Europe torn apart and in conflict with itself? In other words, can a solid European

Community constitute a pole of stability in a world of tensions? Do the countries of the Third World have an interest in that this European "actor" affirms itself on the international scene in such a way that the world stage is no longer principally the setting for the rivalry and confrontation of the two superpowers?

— Is not a unified Europe a more reliable partner for the countries of the South, more open to dialogue, more likely to take into account mutual long-term interests, than a collection of states responding in a fragmented way to the enormous challenge of development? Will a unified Europe be more "imperial" or more respectful of the identity and choices of its partners? Remember — the same Europe that was divided by



Jacques Delors national confrontations was also the Europe of colonialism. — There is finally the experi-

ence of regional integration, this countries of medium size and stature seeking to preserve search for community between their identity, and be masters of their development. For all those on other continents who need for the same reasons but also with the same difficulties to embark on the same adventure, is not the European experience of regional cooperation a useful reference, a sort of pilot project?

— Europe must succeed for the good of Europeans themselves. Its failure would have still wider-reaching consequences... It would seriously damage Europe's ability to make its contribution to a world based on better balanced relations between groups of countries which amongst themselves have taken up and won the challenge of cooperation.

## L. American civilian governments reject military pressure

By Bruce Handler

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — New Civilian governments across South America have faced down military soldiers in a series of recent incidents that underscore the continent's political volatility. In some cases, the civilian rulers have compromised with members of the military regimes that controlled most South American governments ten years ago. But the overall message, reinforced by massive civilian demonstrations and even opposition parties, is that most South American nations are extremely wary of a return to military rule.

In the most recent incident, President Raul Alfonsin put down a rebellion in mid-April by disgruntled army units. "The time for coups is over forever," said Alfonsin, elected in 1983 after seven years of bloody, right-wing military rule. "Armed forces officers have only one obligation To obey orders from the commander-in-chief," he told the Argentine Congress. Later, however, Alfonsin indicated, his administration might relent a bit from its implacable prosecution of military chiefs accused of human rights abuses under the former regime. A decade ago, eight of South

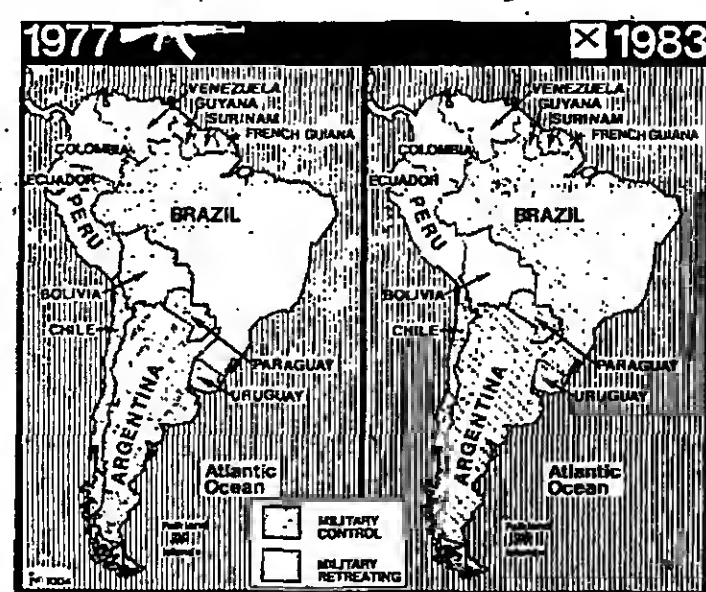
America's 12 independent nations were under military rule. Today, as a result of inept performances by soldier politicians, public outcries against secret arrests, torture and "disappearances," and international pressure, only three nations — Chile, Paraguay and Suriname — remain without civilian administrations.

South America's armed forces are never far from the political stage, however. Following the tradition of several centuries, many Latin American military men still reserve the "right" to intervene again.

Alfonsin is struggling to reorganise the military to eliminate the chances of future threats. Less serious military rumblings have occurred under civilian governments in Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay.

In each case, civilian authority, while making some concessions, has retained the upper hand. While the threat from the military has diminished, however, the only means to extinguish it may be time and experience with civilian rule.

"Delirious crowds shouting 'viva' for democracy, or laws prohibiting coups are not enough," commented Rio De Janeiro's widely read newspaper Jornal Do



Brazil. "The countries of this continent still lack institutional ballast."

Here is a look at the military-civilian clashes that have rattled South America in recent months:

#### Argentina

The president's troubles began last week when an army major refused to answer a court summons in a human rights case stemming from Argentina's 1976-

83 period of military rule, when thousands were killed in the military's "dirty war" against suspected leftists.

Responding to the crisis, Alfonsin persuaded hundreds of thousands of Argentines to gather in city plazas to proclaim their opposition to a new military takeover.

#### Peru

Peru's elected president, Alan

Garcia, openly backed Alfonsin. Garcia faced similar problems just two weeks earlier, when air force jets buzzed his Lima presidential palace because he fired air force commander Gen. Luis Abram.

Abram had opposed a law championed by Garcia merging the three armed-service branches under a civilian defence minister and ending the secrecy of the military budget-making process.

#### Brazil

Rumours of a military coup circulated this month in Brazil, where soldiers ruled for 21 years before turning power over to civilians in 1985. But the army and navy ministries said the rumours were baseless.

President Jose Sarney, telephoned Alfonsin with words of hope that he would overcome the Argentine revolt.

Sarney has carefully nurtured good relations with his own armed forces, allowing the military to put down recent strikes and rigidly enforcing a 1979 amnesty that rules out trials of military men for human rights abuses during the previous regime.

#### Ecuador

In January, angry paratroopers kidnapped President Leon Febres

Cordero, a civilian elected in 1984, and held him for 11 hours until he ordered the release of former air force commander Gen. Frank Vargas Pazzos, imprisoned for attempting an earlier military revolt.

Febres Cordero and Vargas Pazzos made a deal: The general would be free to organise a campaign to run for president in elections set for early next year, and there would be no more coup attempts.

Febres Cordero, who expressed public sympathy for Alfonsin during the Argentine rebellion, said military dissidents in both countries "are following personal ambition and do not represent the will of the armed forces, much less the will of the nations."

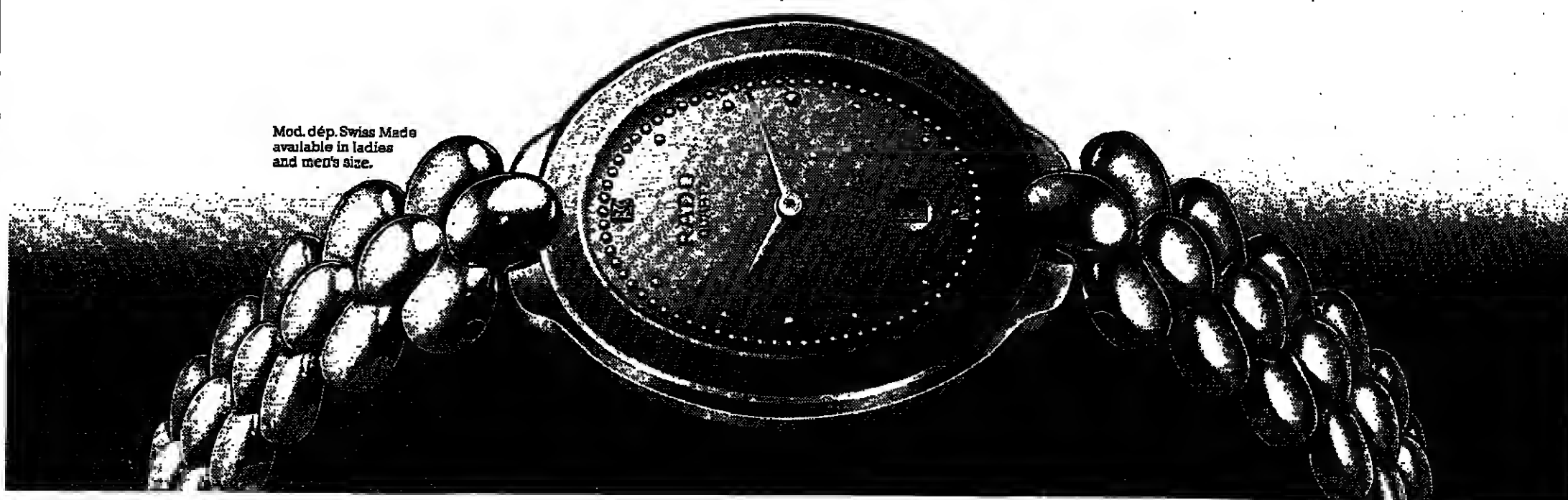
#### Uruguay

Military grumbling grew louder last year in Uruguay because of the attempted prosecution of officers accused of torture and "disappearances" under military governments that ruled from 1973 to 1985.

Finally, in December, civilian president Julio Sanguinetti pushed through an amnesty barring such trials. "It saves our democratic institutions," said one legislator.

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# Earth's air-pollution dilemma knows no geographic boundaries

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Chernobyl a year ago demonstrated the fact frighteningly: Contaminated air can escape from behind even the most secure national borders.

The explosion of a nuclear reactor in the Soviet Union sent telltale clouds across several international boundaries, to Poland, Finland, Sweden, and beyond.

Pollution is everywhere. The Scandinavians are angry with the British over acid rain. Canadians are impatient with the United States for the same reason; most emissions from North America's heartland fall on eastern Canada as well as the northeastern United States.

Dust from China drifts across the North Pacific and is detected by air-monitoring lasers atop Hawaii's 13,680-foot Mauna Loa volcano.

## 'Valley of death'

The most polluted place on earth, Noel Grove writes in the April National Geographic, may be Cubatao, Brazil, called the "valley of death" by its residents. Scores of industrial plants, including a petrochemical complex, pump at least 75 pollutants into Cubatao's air, raising contamination levels in parts of the city of 100,000 to twice those considered safe for humans.

Breathing the air in Mexico City on some winter mornings has been compared to smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. The culprits: Vehicle exhaust, factory smoke, and smoldering refuse heaps.

In Athens, acid deposition has caused more erosion on the ancient marble Parthenon in the past 24 years than had occurred in 24 centuries.

In West Germany, more than half the trees have been afflicted by forest dieback. "Conifers weep needles and beeches grow bald with premature aging," Grove writes. The trees are being stressed by air pollution, say West German scientists. Forests are also affected in eastern Europe, Norway, Sweden, the United States, and Canada.

In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency points out that nearly 80 million Americans live in countries where ozone levels exceed air-quality standards and 61 million breathe too much carbon monoxide. When it occurs in smog, ozone is a noxious form of oxygen.

Nationally, the agency says overall air quality has improved since 1975 in well-known and regulated pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead.

But we are in the midst of a chemical revolution in which some 65,000 commercial com-

pounds enter our environment each year. Some are proven cancer-causing substances, and many more are suspected. Yet only eight chemicals are listed as hazardous and are regulated at their source by the EPA.

## \$10 billion medical bill

Americans spend more than \$10 billion a year on medical problems caused by outdoor pollutants, Grove reports. Ozone resulting from automobile emissions annually reduces crop yields significantly, sometimes by as much as 20 per cent, in the case of soybeans.

Even the Earth's poles aren't exempt from contamination. Until the arrival of spring each year, the North Pole resembles a turn-of-the-century coal town, Grove writes.

In winter, when the Arctic is tilted into constant night and the sun cannot generate cleansing winds and precipitation, the largest single mass of pollution sits atop the globe like a dirty cap.

Scientists — now able to analyze samplings as small as one part per trillion of air — can trace pollution to its source.

Most North Pole pollution has been pinned to a mineral-rich smelting area in the Soviet Union's Ural Mountains.

In contrast, Grove writes, the

South Pole seems fairly clean because 90 per cent of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere. Yet, during the past eight years the protective ozone layer has become thinner each spring over the pole.

A major hole was detected in late 1985. In the upper atmosphere, 12 to 30 miles above ground, ozone intercepts the sun's damaging ultraviolet radiation. Scientists differ on the possible culprit: industrial chemicals, solar cycles, or perhaps simply upwellings of air from the lower atmosphere.

Globally, the levels of carbon dioxide, which holds heat close to the earth, are 27 per cent greater today than they were before 1850, scientists have found.

The probable cause is the burning of fossil fuels and the clearing and burning of forests by farmers. Nations of North America and Europe, including the Soviet Union, emit the most carbon dioxide because they consume the greater part of the world's oil, coal, and gas. But most of these countries burn less today than they did in 1980.

However, fossil-fuel consumption is on the rise in the rapidly developing countries of Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Scientists worry that the growing burden of carbon dioxide and other gases, such as methane, may raise global temperatures.

## More Egyptian women are taking to Islamic dress

By Sara El Gammal

Reuter

CAIRO — More women are wearing long Islamic dress, their faces veiled or their hair covered, in a Muslim revival in Egypt. And businessmen are cashing in on the controversial trend.

Some feminists in the mainly-Muslim country say women adopting Islamic dress do so for escapism reasons rather than from strict religious convictions.

"A woman seeks escape in the veil when she feels her worth and identity lie in her body and not in her intellectual and personal achievements," said Iman Kodary, a feminist and family-planning worker.

A student at the American University here blames controversy over the veil on Western cultural influences.

"There is nothing unnatural about a Muslim woman wearing the Islamic dress, but it is our society that makes it seem like an oddity," she said.

She adopted the veil despite the disapproval of her mother and her friends — all of whom wear Western-style clothes. A year later she discarded it.

"People always made me feel like the odd one out. I lost the conviction I started out with," she said.

Islam stipulates that women dress modestly, covering all parts of the body except the face, hands and feet. Women should

shun clothes that attract attention but trousers, frowned on by purists, are sometimes worn under long skirts or tunic dresses.

In the streets of cosmopolitan Cairo, one can see various versions of head-coverings, some of which surround the face like a nun's cowl and fall loosely to the shoulder.

Some of the wearers seem to be

motivated by fashion as much as by religion. There are coverings which look more like turbans, scarves, sometimes beaded, just covering the hair, and jaunty pill-box hats covered by silk squares.

A stricter but less common form of concealment, advocated by hardliners, includes a nose-veil or a long rectangular piece of material fixed to the head-dress and covering the entire face. Eyeslits are optional but gloves are always worn.

Not slow to spot a business opportunity, Egyptians are opening more shops specializing in day, evening and bridal wear for the fashion-conscious veiled woman, who has no need to sacrifice sequins and a tailored fit in the pursuit of purity.

Hairdressers are also catching on to the veiling trend.

One salon owner in downtown Cairo has set aside a section of his shop for veiled customers. "More women want their hair done by members of their own sex," he says.

Fashion shows displaying cover-up creations to wealthy audiences have earned the contempt of stricter Muslims.

"Those who veil following the whims of fashion will receive the same punishment (on the day of judgment) as those who don't cover up at all," said one veiled woman who did not want to be named.

She owns a clothes factory which makes Western-style clothes for boutiques in Cairo's fashionable Zamalek suburb. When she decided to don the veil she checked with Muslim scholars, who told her she could carry on making the clothes so long as women wore them only in the home.

Shrouded in a flowing black dress with matching gloves and

face-piece, she said, "This country would not have been doomed if it had adhered to Islam. Islam is the only solution."

Demonstrations and fist-fights broke out last year in Cairo University when the dean of the medical faculty was alleged to have torn off a student's veil.

The row faded after university authorities ordered students to remove face-pieces on entering the campus. Students are not allowed to sit examinations unless they show their faces as a check against impersonation.

"I have no objections to being religious, but how can a veiled doctor examine a child. That child could become hysterical," a doctor, Mohammad Hawary, wrote recently.

A Western-style headdress pageant to select the first Miss Egypt took place last month in a hotel ballroom swarming with security men because organisers feared demonstrations.

Organisers held the swimsuit parade, mandatory for beauty queens but out of line with Islamic tenets, for judges only at a private villa near the Giza pyramids.

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan investment promotional conference at the headquarters of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). He said that Jordanian-Kuwaiti economic relations constituted a model for brotherly economic ties among Arab countries. The conference in Kuwait is aimed at orienting investors and businessmen in Kuwait and other Arabian Gulf countries on Jordan's economic potential and will present a useful arena for an exchange of views over investment and Jordan's economy in general, Mr. Khurafi said.

He expressed hope that the Jordanian delegation would provide investors with sufficient information on the general outline of investment opportunities in Jordan and laws and regulations on such investments and also on projects included in the 1986-1990 five-year national development plan and ways of involving Arab investors in implementing these projects.

Jordan and Kuwait, Mr. Khurafi pointed out, have entered a new phase of economic prosperity with the conclusion of a bilateral economic and trade and technical agreement last October.

Kuwait has been keen on opening new avenues of cooperation with the Arab World and has continually opened its doors for Arab citizens who have actually contributed to the development and construction of Kuwait and have been well awarded for such efforts, Mr. Khurafi said. He said such policy had reflected positively on Kuwait and other Arab countries and contributed towards strengthening bilateral relations.

Referring to the KFAED, Mr. Khurafi said that it had offered generous assistance to Arab countries to enable them carry out their development schemes. Since its establishment in 1961 the KFAED has provided \$2,500 million in technical assistance and grants and loans to various Arab countries of which Jordan obtained \$350 million, Mr. Khurafi added.

Dr. Muasher addressed the opening session of the two-day conference paying tribute to Kuwaiti government, businessmen and people for their help in holding the meeting.

Dr. Muasher said Jordan had realised an average economic growth of 10.4 per cent between 1975 and 1982 and hence won the respect and appreciation of Arab and foreign countries. The exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and the average price of commodities and services in Jordan have maintained a stable level throughout the years thanks to sound economic planning and the political stability and security which Jordan has been enjoying over the years, Dr. Muasher noted.

He said that this was coupled with an increase in Jordan's exports and a noticeable rise in homebound remittances of Jordanian expatriates and also a flow of financial assistance to Jordan from various Arab countries.

The minister noted that Jordan's economy had been able to adapt to different economic situations and the economic recession

which began to affect the world and the Arab countries since the early 1980s.

The Jordanian government has adopted a set of economic strategies designed to stimulate the national economy in the short term and these took the form of resolutions for solving urgent problems encountered by commercial institutions and companies, the minister said. He said medium-term measures were also taken represented in offering incentives and encouragement for investments by the private sector.

In order to implement projects included in the present five-year national development plan Jordan needs JD 5,175 million and the government has embarked on a policy of securing capital from Arab and friendly nations to be invested in projects, the minister said.

He said that Jordan now enjoys a unique investment climate backed by political stability. Jordan has a free enterprise economy and enjoys a central geographical location enabling it to deal with the Gulf states, Europe

and other countries, he said. Investors in Jordan have total freedom to bring in or take out any sums of capital and also profits accruing from investments, he pointed out. Jordan offers Arab and foreign investors the essential infrastructure for carrying out projects and ensures communications and transport and offers government guarantees for investments, the minister said.

In addition, he said, the Jordanian government offers investors exemption from customs duty on material and equipment and also income tax for a period of seven to 15 years.

Mohammad Saqqaf, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, addressed the meeting explaining that Jordan had 8,000 industrial and handicraft businesses, of which 700 are major projects and that the total investments in the industrial sector amounted to JD 1,600 million employing 87,000 workers.

Dr. Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, presented a detailed briefing on the 1986-1990 five-year

## Former film star gives rare interview

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Screen legend Marlene Dietrich, in a rare interview released Monday by a West German newspaper, says she still gets angry at being remembered as the sex symbol from "The Blue Angel."

The Bonn-published newspaper Die Welt said the reclusive 86-year-old former actress, who was born and raised in Berlin but became a U.S. citizen in 1939, was giving her first interview in three years.

She told Die Welt she still gets upset when "The Blue Angel," the 1930 film directed by Josef von Sternberg that turned Ms. Dietrich into a glamorous star, is remembered mainly for her appearance in short pants.

"It is one of the most powerful films of all time, technically as well as psychologically as modern today as it was then," she told Die Welt.

Ms. Dietrich, who Die Welt said was interviewed at her residence in Paris, defended her longtime seclusion from the pub-

lic and reluctance to give interviews.

"Most of the world stars live in seclusion, as you term it. Naturally we don't walk around in crowded streets, where you can't hide from autograph hunters," Ms. Dietrich was quoted as saying.

"Naturally, we don't go to fashion shows or other events of that sort. Like other women, I invite my friends to visit me (at home). I'm quite beloved as a cook. Beyond that, 'I have a big family which keeps me occupied, thank God.'"

Excerpts from the interview, which was due to appear in Die Welt's Tuesday editions, were telexed to news agencies on Monday. Die Welt said Ms. Dietrich spoke German in the interview.

Ms. Dietrich retired from moviemaking in the early 1960s after a 40-year career that included "Shanghai Express," "The Devil is a Woman," "Foreign Affair" and "Judgment at Nuremberg." She later cut re-



Marlene Dietrich

cords and sang in cabarets.

In the interview, Ms. Dietrich also said the famed wartime song "Lili Marleen" that was so closely associated with her actually had little to do with her talent or career.

"You sing songs that are well known. All singers do that. 'Lili Marleen' is a song that had nothing special to do with me. It was

a soldiers' song," Ms. Dietrich was quoted as saying.

She said she still retained strong emotional and family ties with Germany, despite having left her homeland in the early 1930s.

"Yes, there are still many connections. Two cousins live in Germany, and I have friends in Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. But the names will stay a secret. I promised that," she was quoted as saying.

Ms. Dietrich, asked what nationality she felt today, was quoted by Die Welt as saying, "I live in America in my apartment in New York and for professional reasons also in Paris. I speak English, French, German, some Italian. I am an American citizen and naturally I feel as such."

Asked if she ever felt homesick for Berlin, Ms. Dietrich told Die Welt, "I'll quote (the Austrian author) Alfred Polgar. 'Foreign countries have not become home, but home has become a foreign country.'"

## Islamic orphanage offers hope for Lebanon war victims

By Marwan Naamani

Reuter

BEIRUT — Twelve-year-old Bilal Abu Aitah hung his head in sadness as he recalled the night he and his three young brothers lost their parents in the Lebanon war, which enters its 13th year this week.

"The Palestinians were fighting the Amal militia last year and a rocket exploded inside the room where my mother and father were sitting," he said.

Bilal now lives in West Beirut's Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiyah (Islamic Orphanage), home to over 3,500 youngsters without parents.

"The first day Bilal came here nobody could talk to him or even touch him," his teacher, Nahada Zahabi, said. "He was emotionally tied to his parents and could not believe we were trying to help him."

Bilal now feels more at home. "The people in Dar Al Aytam are my family. I know I'm an orphan and I don't care any more," he said.

Along with 10 similar institutions in Lebanon, the 70-year-old Islamic Orphanage offers food,

shelter — and hope — to the thousands of children bereaved in the bloody conflicts wracking the country since April 13, 1975.

Director Mohammad Barakat said the orphanage held 900 children before the war forced it to rapidly expand.

Lebanon has some 13,000 orphans living in institutions, with thousands more believed to be living with relatives, social welfare officials say.

About half lost their parents in civil war violence, including 1,500 whose parents are missing or kidnapped.

The Islamic Orphanage, a Sunni Muslim charity, cares for children regardless of their religion, Barakat told Reuters. "Our doors are open to all. Lebanese and Palestinian children sleep in the same beds and eat from the same plates," he said.

Most live in a four-story building, not far from the green line battlefield between Beirut's Christian and Muslim sectors.

The orphanage was hit in cross-fire during six days of fierce militia street battles in West Beirut in February.

"I cried, I was so frightened because I don't want to die," said seven-year-old Ghada Yazbek, remembering her terror.

On a normal day at the orphanage, scores of children are busy reading, knitting or listening to music, supervised by teachers.

"I am happy here, all of them are my family now," Salima Shama, 11, ventured shyly as she looked around the room.

Her father was killed four years ago in the civil war, leaving seven children. Salima and her three younger brothers have lived at the orphanage for the past four years.

Swedish child psychiatrist Harriet Jacobson said the war in Lebanon had deeply affected children, adding that many orphans had seen their parents killed in front of them.

"The repeated fighting makes it difficult for children to forget such memories," she said. "You can see healthy children collapse when fighting erupts suddenly."

Jacobson, who works at Beirut University College, said all orphans needed psychological care.

"We help them mostly to forget. It is not wrong if they cry, or speak about their tragedies but they should know that they can survive without their parents," she said.

The Islamic Orphanage runs a youth training centre where some children study. Others, like Salima and Hassan, a Palestinian aged 11, attend private schools outside.

"I go to a private school and I am in the fifth class," said Hassan proudly. His father was killed two years ago in the "camps war" between Amal and the Palestinians.

"Going to school helps the orphans meet other children and helps them feel they are normal," Barakat said.

The Islamic Orphanage and other orphanages in Lebanon are non-governmental charities, financially and administratively independent, Barakat said.

Funded by grants and donations, they care for orphans, foundlings and single-parent children, providing food, lodging, clothes and vocational training to the age of 18, he said.

## Kuwait meeting focuses on investments in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan investment promotional conference at the headquarters of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). He said that Jordanian-Kuwaiti economic relations constituted a model for brotherly economic ties among Arab countries. The conference in Kuwait is aimed at orienting investors and businessmen in Kuwait and other Arabian Gulf countries on Jordan's economic potential and will present a useful arena for an exchange of views over investment and Jordan's economy in general, Mr. Khurafi said.

He expressed hope that the Jordanian delegation would provide investors with sufficient information on the general outline of investment opportunities in Jordan and laws and regulations on such investments and also on projects included in the 1986-1990 five-year national development plan and ways of involving Arab investors in implementing these projects.

Jordan and Kuwait, Mr. Khurafi pointed out, have entered a new phase of economic prosperity with the conclusion of a bilateral economic and trade and technical agreement last October.

Kuwait has been keen on opening new avenues of cooperation with the Arab World and has continually opened its doors for Arab citizens who have actually contributed to the development and construction of Kuwait and have been well awarded for such efforts, Mr. Khurafi said. He said such policy had reflected positively on Kuwait and other Arab countries and contributed towards strengthening bilateral relations.

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## Oberammergau revises play script in response to Jewish protests

OBERAMMERGAU, West Germany (AP) — The town of Oberammergau said last Thursday it had revised parts of the Passion Play's script in response to protests by American Jewish leaders who claimed it was anti-Semitic.

In a statement, the Bavarian Alps town said the revisions in the famed, 325-year-old play would be submitted to the municipal council for final approval. The next staging of the play is slated for 1990.

The statement said the revised text had been forwarded to the American Jewish Organisation B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League as well as to Roman Catholic Cardinal Friedrich Wetter, archbishop of Munich and Freising. Wetter heads the doctrine commission of the German bishops conference.

The Oberammergau statement said the script revisions were made over the past year. It did not describe the changes made.

But it said the town opposed portraying Jesus Christ in the Passion Play "in a way that diverges from church tradition and is not approved by the current teachings of the church."

"Also, to have Jesus Christ praying in Hebrew at the holy communion to demonstrate the Jewish origins of Jesus can only

seem strange to (play) directors and spectators without any acquaintance of Hebrew," the statement added.

Oberammergau officials and American Jewish leaders engaged in a major public controversy over the Passion Play in 1984, the last year the day-long production was staged.

Mayor Clement Fend said at the time that Oberammergau rejected American Jewish charges that the play was anti-Semitic, and would not buckle under pressure to change it.

The American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League contended the play maligned Jews and dwelled on blaming them for the murder of Christ.

The script had been edited in previous years to satisfy critics, but many argued the changes did not go far enough.

American visitors accounted for about 45 per cent of the 470,000 spectators who attend the 100 performances during the May-September 1984 jubilee run.

The play has been performed in archaic German but the audience followed translated scripts. The play dates to 1663, when bubonic plague ravaged the mountain valley where Oberammergau sits.

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# Liverpool refuses to surrender title

LONDON (R) — Liverpool dramatically halted Everton's title surge when they beat their city rivals 3-1 Saturday in a thrilling English League top-of-the-table clash at Anfield.

The reigning champions knew defeat would almost certainly mean the league crown returning to Everton and, despite having won only one of their last five matches, they rose superbly to the challenge in front of a capacity 44,800 crowd.

Steve McMahon gave Liverpool the lead in the ninth minute with a powerful 20-metre drive. Everton equalised seven minutes later from a similar distance when Kevin Sheedy rifled home a free kick.

It was left to Ian Rush, playing in his last Merseyside clash before his move next season to Juventus of Italy, to score two more vital goals which equalled Dixie Dean's record of 19 in games between the two clubs.

The Welsh international was on hand to head home a corner from Ronnie Whelan a minute before halftime. Then he put the match out of Everton's reach with a second goal 11 minutes from time.

The result, which brought to an end a run of six consecutive league victories by Everton, closed the gap between the two clubs to three points.

But Everton are still favourites to regain the title. With four matches left they still have a game in hand on Liverpool and also enjoy a much better goal difference.

Third-placed Tottenham retained their slim chance of sneaking past the top two with a 3-1 win at home to lowly Oxford.

Tottenham were 2-0 up in 15 minutes through Chris Waddle and Paul Allen. Although Dean Saunders scored for Oxford in the 21st minute Glenn Hoddle wrapped it up in the last minute after racing half the length of the field and dummying the goalkeeper for a typically flamboyant strike.

Tottenham's neighbours, fourth-placed Arsenal, had a miserable afternoon losing 3-0 at bottom club Manchester City. Two goals from Imre Varadi and one from Paul Stewart, all in the second half, gave City a welcome tonic.

But it looks to be too late. Fellow strugglers Aston Villa handed out a 4-0 thrashing to visitors West Ham and remain one point ahead of City with three games remaining.

Charlton gained a hard earned point with a 2-2 draw at Southampton to move to 38 points, two ahead of Aston Villa and two behind Leicester who slipped deeper into trouble with a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of

Watford.

Newcastle made it five successive home wins with a 1-0 triumph over Chelsea — a result which virtually guarantees them first division football next season.

Almost inevitably the goal came from former West Ham striker Paul Goddard, his eighth in the last nine games.

In Scotland, the champagne remained on ice for Glasgow Rangers despite a glorious hat-trick from Ally McCoist in the 3-0

defeat of Hearts.

Arch rivals Celtic postponed the championship celebrations with a 3-1 win at St. Mirren which keeps them within three points of Rangers.

McCoist's three goals took his total in the league this season to 33, three more than the record set by Jim Forrest in the 1960s.

Rangers can make sure of the title by beating Aberdeen next Saturday.

## Iraq cruises to win over Jordan in Olympic soccer

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq cruised to a 2-0 win over Jordan in Kuwait to triumph in both legs of the West Asian Group Two soccer qualifying tie for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

The Iraqi side, on the comeback trail after a dismal showing in the World Cup finals in Mexico last year, went ahead in the 26th minute with a left-footed drive by striker Hussein Said.

Midfielder Saad Qais put the result Friday night beyond doubt shortly before the interval, scoring the second goal in the 42nd minute after a defensive error.

Playing in front of a crowd estimated at 8,000 people, many of them boisterous Iraqi fans, the winning side was in command for most of the match.

Iraq won the first leg of the qualifier 2-1 in Amman.

It was prevented from hosting its "home" leg of the tie under rules laid down by the world soccer governing body, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA), which bans the playing of internationals in countries at war.

Iran, Iraq's foe in the nearly seven-year-old Gulf war, was bundled out of the Olympic race by Kuwait in an opening tie of the West Asian Group Four qualifying round.

## American NBA playoffs

### Houston downs Portland

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Rockets look more like defending Western Conference champions with Ralph Sampson back as a starter.

The Rockets became the only one of eight road teams to win its National Basketball Association playoff opener as Sampson started alongside Alvin Robertson for the first time since Feb. 3. With the "Twin Towers" reunited, Houston defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 125-115.

Olaojuwon had 30 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked shots, while Sampson, still recovering from a knee injury that sidelined him much of the season, added 23 points. Both are at least 7-foot (2.13-metre) tall.

"I don't know if they are as good right now as they were last year," said Kiki Vandeweghe, who led the Trail Blazers with 30 points. "But I can't see them playing a better game."

"It means a lot (to have Sampson back)," Olaojuwon said. "It's easier with his enthusiasm and his rebounding."

In other playoff openers Friday night, Atlanta defeated Indiana 110-94, Detroit beat Washington 106-92 and Milwaukee edged Philadelphia 107-104.

In Saturday's games, Denver was at the Los Angeles Lakers, Seattle at Dallas and Golden State at Utah.

On Sunday, it's Chicago at Boston, Philadelphia at Milwaukee, Houston at Portland, Washington at Detroit and Indiana at Atlanta. All the home teams except Portland lead the best-of-five series 1-0.

Dominique Wilkins was 3-for-13 from the field in the first half and 9-for-10 in the second, helping Atlanta pull away from Indiana.

Wilkins, the league's second-leading scorer with a 29.1 average, scored 27 of his 35 points in the second half as the Hawks outscored the Pacers 56-43 after halftime.

"I was pressing in the first half. I was a little tight," Wilkins said. "I was trying to do too much too soon. I just relaxed in the second half and let it happen."

Steve Stipanovich had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Chuck Person added 21 points and Wayne Tisdale 20 for the Pacers, while Kevin Willis had 21 points for Atlanta.

Isiah Thomas had 34 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and keyed Detroit's decisive second quarter against Washington.

Thomas scored 11 of his 15 second-quarter points during a 21-8 run that saw the Pistons go from a one-point deficit with 4:30 remaining in the period to a 37-45 lead at halftime.

Terry Catledge led Washington with 24 points. Moses Malone was held to 14 points and was 3-for-17 from the field.

Milwaukee defeated Philadelphia as Jack Sikma scored 11 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, including a 10-foot jumper with 54 seconds left for the go-ahead basket. The 76ers lost the ball twice in the final 32 seconds with a chance to tie.

Terry Cummings led the Bucks with 21 points. Charles Barkley, playing on a sprained ankle, scored 21 points for the 76ers.

## 'Super' chess tourney ends in dramatic tie

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov scored a dramatic final-round victory in the Super Grandmaster Tournament to finish in a tie for first with the overnight leader, Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia.

However, Ljubojevic's brilliant eighth-round win against fourth-placed Swiss grandmaster Victor Korchnoi enabled him to defeat Kasparov under a complicated tie-breaking system.

Ljubojevic, 36, was content to move his score on to 8½ points out of a possible 11 by agreeing to a rapid 14-move draw with Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union.

That left Kasparov, at 7½ points, needing a win to tie for first.

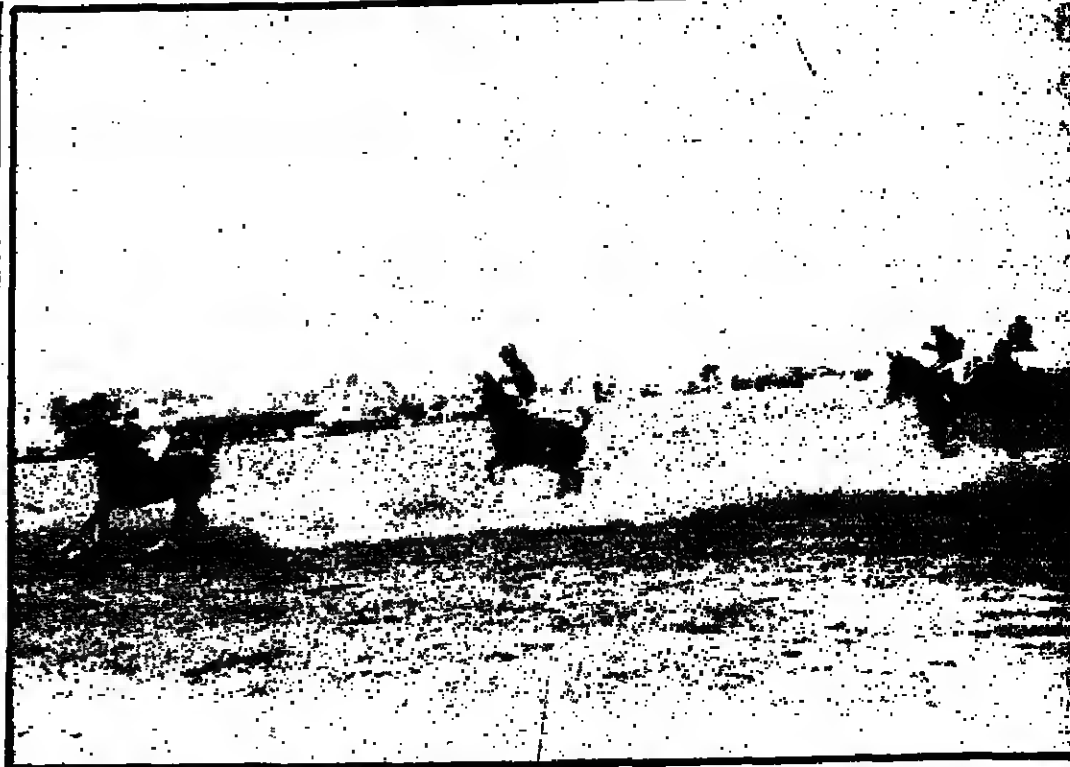
Playing white against fellow Soviet Mikhail Tal, Kasparov showed little mercy. He tore through his opponents' defenses with a devastating king-side attack to force resignation after 31 moves.

On Saturday, Ljubojevic was presented with the award for first place, while the two winners shared the prize money each receiving about \$10,600.

Karpov, 35, a former world champion, finished third.

Korchnoi was joined at 6½ points by Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, who drew with fellow countryman John van der Wiel.

Tal came in sixth, with Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen, who outplayed England's Nigel Short, seventh at 5½ points.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (far right) supports teammate Mahmoud Abu Nawar (centre) in a Jordanian attack during a polo match against the Italian military team held at Zarqa on Saturday. An Italian defender (far left) scrambles to fend off the attack.

## Jordan beats Italy in polo

By Mun'em Fakhouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — The Jordanian polo team led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday struggled to defeat the Italian polo team by four goals to nil.

Prince Hassan scored three times during the match which was held at the Polo Club in the Zarqa military camp.

At the end of the match Prince Hassan distributed awards to members of the visiting team

while Prince Rashed Ibn Al Hassan presented the cup to Prince Hassan.

The Italian team's leader distributed awards to the members of the Jordanian team.

Following the match, Prince Hassan spoke to the Jordan Times paying tribute to the Italian team and attributing the victory of the national team to continuous training.

Prince Hassan said that the Jordanian national team has

accepted an invitation to play in Rome and that a date will later be announced for the match which will be against the same team of the Italian armed forces.

Prince Hassan described the match with the Italian military polo team as one of the best ever played between the national team and a visiting team which he said enjoys high sports morale.

The match was attended by Italian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Luigi Amaduzzi.

## Soviet Union edges Canada in World Hockey championships

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Despite Canada's strong team effort to overwhelm the mighty Soviet Union, the defending champion "Redshirts" stretched its perfect record to 6-0 at the World Hockey Championships.

Playing without pressure, because they virtually have qualified among the top four teams that will fight for the medals, the Soviets edged Canada 3-2 by a late goal in the third period.

The Soviet Union features an identical team that split two games with the NHL (National Hockey League) all-stars in the Rendez-vous 87 Series in Quebec earlier this year, including the deadly attacking trio Vladimir Krutov, Igor Larionov and Sergei Makarov.

In another match Friday Finland upset Sweden, last year's finalists in Moscow, 4-1, and came closer to the four-team playoffs.

The United States is scheduled to face Switzerland, considered the weakest team on the tournament, and West Germany plays Czechoslovakia.

IIHF bows to court order

West Germany's hockey team, which had two world championship victories taken away by the International Ice Hockey Federation for fielding an ineligible player, had them temporarily

restored Saturday after the IIHF bowed to the terms of a court order.

The federation had acted after hearing objections that West Germany fielded Polish-born defenseman Miroslav Sikora in its first four matches of the tournament.

Finland, which lost 3-1 to the West Germans, lodged a protest that Sikora, who scored one of the goals against it, played for Poland's junior team in an international tournament 11 years ago and was therefore ineligible to play for his adopted country.

West Germany's victories over Finland and Canada, as well as a 3-0 defeat by Sweden, were turned into a 5-0 defeat. Sikora, who has since returned to Cologne, was banned from the competition.

West German hockey officials, who said the IIHF originally cleared Sikora to play, took their case to a Viennese judge, who Friday granted an injunction temporarily overturning the federation's ruling.

After consulting with their lawyers Saturday, the federation's members said they would comply with the judge's order at least until Monday's final games had been completed and they could assess the importance of the two victories.

## Pfaff stars again in Bayern victory

BONN (R) — Belgian World Cup goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, the hero of Madrid on Wednesday, stole the show again as West German league leaders Bayern Munich continued their winning ways with a 2-1 win in Bochum Saturday.

Pfaff stopped a penalty with the score balanced at 1-1 in the second half and made several other superb saves to extend Bayern's unbeaten away record in the league to 22 games. They last lost away in November 1985.

The Belgian had been the undoubted star three days ago when his astounding reflexes helped a 10-man Bayern hold Real Madrid to a 1-0 scoreline in a European Cup second leg match. The Munich side won 4-2 on aggregate to reach the final.

Bayern still have a four-point lead in the league as their only serious challengers Hamburg S.V. also picked up both points Saturday with a 2-1 win over Bayer Uerdingen.

The leaders, missing injured

captain Klaus Augenthaler who was sent off in Madrid and sick midfielder Michael Rummenigge, were soon in trouble in Bochum when Uwe Leifeld shot the home side into a 15th minute lead. But Andreas Brehme struck back two minutes later.

Pfaff saved a Josef Neul penalty on the hour to prevent the home side going ahead again and shortly afterwards Lothar Matthaus scored to give Bayern both points.

Hamburg took a two-goal half-time lead through Sascha Justini and Manfred Kastl, both thanks to crosses from Evergreen right back Manfred Kaltz. But Friedhelm Funkel pulled one back early in the second half and Hamburg had to fight a rearguard action from then on.

Borussia Moenchengladbach, so shot-shy in their home defeat to Dundee United in the UEFA Cup on Wednesday, showed what they are really made of with a 7-2 rout of Waldhof Mannheim.

## Arias, Wilander reach final of Volvo Monte Carlo Open

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — American Jimmy Arias, on the comeback trail after some hard times in tennis, advanced to the final of the \$513,000 Volvo Monte Carlo Open by defeating young Horst Skoff of Austria on Saturday, 7-5, 6-1.

Arias meets Mats Wilander of Sweden in Sunday's final, worth \$74,700 to the winner. Wilander, who won the Italian Open the following year when he was playing his best previous tennis.

Arias was ranked as high as fifth in the world in 1984 and made the semifinals of the U.S. Open as a 19-year-old in 1983.

Since then, his tennis fortunes have dropped and he is currently no. 53 in the world.

However, he beat two-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker earlier this week and ran through another three matches to enter his first grand prix final since 1985.

In Saturday's match against Skoff, Arias blasted forehand winners and made timely trips to the net. He came from a 0-2 deficit in the first set to go up, 4-2. He held that advantage for the first set victory.

The second set found Skoff

losing all three of his service games as a combination of good Arias play and Skoff errors turned the second set into a rout. Skoff tried to come in a number of times but his approach shots found the net.

Arias and Wilander have met just once before. Wilander winning in the 1982 Italian Open. Arias won the Italian Open the following year when he was playing his best previous tennis.

Wilander held his first service game of the match and fifth in breaking Steenlund four times in the first set.

Wilander stayed back most of the time and made few trips to the net as Steenlund made more errors. Steenlund had eliminated Stefan Edberg, another Swede, earlier in the tournament. Edberg is 1987's leader in money winnings and Nabisco Grand Prix points.

In the second set, both players gave away points and games until Wilander finally held to gain a 3-2 advantage.

The 22-year-old Wilander then ran out the set and qualified for his second final of the year. He previously won in Brussels.

## Navratilova aims for 1st title of 1987 in Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova, aiming for her first title of 1987, defeated fellow-American Lori McNeil 6-1, 6-2 to advance to the semifinals of the \$150,000 Houston Women's Tennis Tournament.

In another semifinal match, second-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia beat Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, seeded fifth, 7-5, 6-4.

Mandlikova next faces third-seeded Chris Evert, a 6-3, 6-3

winner over fellow-American Kate Gompert, the eighth seed.

In the other semifinal, Navratilova will play fourth-seeded American Zina Garrison, who routed Italy's Raffaella Reggi, the seventh seed, 6-1, 6-0.

Having won this event an unprecedented six times, and holding a 17-0 edge on her semifinal opponent, Navratilova is confident about today's match.

"I don't remember ever losing

a match here," she said.

Navratilova won seven straight games from 1-1 in the first set and was only tested briefly in the 63-minute match by the sixth-seeded McNeil.

"It could have been closer, if she would have won some of the deuce games," said Navratilova. "When it gets to the later rounds, my game goes up a notch. I always play better against better opponents."

Mandlikova overcame deficits

of 0-2 in the first set and 1-3 in the second set to defeat Sabatini, who complained of concentration problems.

Mandlikova, who has beaten Evert only six times in their 26 meetings, said she was ready for her semifinal match.

"The last time we played, I had been going for eight tournaments in a row, and I was tired. This time I am looking forward to playing her," said Mandlikova.

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Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45







# Sri Lankan navy sinks rebel boat after chase

## Army helicopters smash Tamil bases

COLOMBO (R) — A Sri Lankan naval patrol vessel sank a large rebel craft laden with munitions after a high-speed chase, the government said Saturday.

On land, four Tamil rebel bases were destroyed by helicopter gunships in the government's all-out war against separatist guerrillas.

Government spokesman Tilak Ratnakara said the navy patrol vessel spotted the large boat heading for the Sri Lankan coast from southern India Friday night.

The navy crew opened fire when the boat, equipped with four outboard engines, tried to escape.

Fire was returned from the boat during a two-mile chase in waters northeast of Jaffna.

Three crewmen who fell overboard from the fleeing craft were thought to have been killed by navy fire, Mr. Ratnakara said.

After another burst of firing from the navy patrol, the boat exploded and sank.

"It was obvious it was carrying a large amount of explosives," Mr. Ratnakara said.

He said detonator cords packed in plastic bags were found floating on the sea, and debris from the explosion also indicated the vessel had been carrying firearms and ammunition.

The air force continued its attacks in the rebel-controlled Jaffna area Friday, destroying

mortar positions in the city itself and in three nearby villages, he said.

The air strikes were backed by simultaneous mortar bombardments by ground troops.

Air strikes against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) bases had killed 100 rebels and some civilians, he said.

The government pledged an all-out assault on the rebels after a car bomb in Colombo on Tuesday killed 106 people and injured 300.

Colombo police said 110 youths had been detained in raids on boarding houses and restaurants in investigations into the blast.

Six were Muslims and the rest were Tamils, police said.

They said the youths, detained when they could not produce identity cards or explain their presence in the capital, were being questioned.

Police sources said they were being held under the prevention of terrorism act which allowed police to keep them for 18 months without trial.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa in a tough speech told parliament Friday: "We will wipe

out terrorism ... before seeking a political solution to the ethnic problem."

At the same time National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a press conference air strikes against separatist rebel positions in their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold, would be continued "until we destroy all targets."

Mr. Athulathmudali said the government was not closing the door to peace negotiations but it was up to the rebels to take the initiative.

Mr. Premadasa, during a stormy debate in parliament on the state of emergency, said it was not the time to think of political settlements while people were being killed by the rebels.

"There should be a military solution first before anything else. Let the world, including India, think whatever they want," he added.

He called on New Delhi to expel Tamil rebels whom he claimed operated from Indian territory.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said in a statement issued at their exile headquarters in southern India that probably more than 100 people, most of them civilians, were killed in Friday's raids, including those in a school of Jaffna.

# S. African troops kill 5 rebels in Zambia

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African troops entered Zambia and killed five African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas early Saturday in two raids at the riverside resort town of Livingstone, army headquarters announced.

The raid on what the army called a "terrorist transit facility" followed repeated assertions by Pretoria that the ANC was sending guerrillas south to infiltrate South Africa.

The South African army headquarters in Pretoria said there were no South African casualties and that "all the members of the ... defence force have returned to their bases."

The ANC, based in Lusaka, Zambia, is the main black nationalist guerrilla movement seeking to end the apartheid system of legalised race separation in South Africa. It is banned in the country.

A spokesman at the ANC headquarters said he had "no information about any raid," and declined comment until he had received details from Livingstone.

In Lusaka, a spokesman for Zambia President Kenneth Kaunda said he had heard the news but would make no comment. Inquiries were referred to defence and security officials, none of whom were immediately available for comment.

Livingstone is 473 kilometres south of Lusaka and more than 900 kilometres north of Johannesburg. Both Botswana and Zimbabwe lie between South Africa and Zambia.

Neil Van Heerden, South Africa's director-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, told foreign correspondents Thursday that South Africa had information that 150 ANC guerrillas were attempting to infiltrate from Zambia.

South African officials have said the purpose of the guerrilla infiltration is to upset the May 6 elections for the white chamber of parliament.

Mr. Van Heerden said South Africa twice warned Zambia that it would face retaliation if it did not stop the guerrillas. Warnings also were sent to Zimbabwe and Botswana, telling them that the guerrilla plan was to use their territories as an infiltration route. All three governments denied ANC combatants were harboured in their countries.

The last South African raid into Zambia was on May 17, 1986, when simultaneous raids also were conducted against suspected ANC targets in Zimbabwe and Botswana.

# Howe in New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived here Saturday ready to tell Labour Party Prime Minister David Lange that his anti-nuclear policy is a threat to New Zealand and to Western Security.

Officials travelling with Howe said he would call on the New Zealand leader to reverse a ban on ships carrying nuclear weapons.

The ban has stopped naval visits by Britain and the United States and has cut New Zealand off from its ANZUS defence treaty with Australia and the United States.

The U.S. has suspended defence cooperation with New Zealand because of the ban, which Mr. Lange implemented in 1985 in response to anti-nuclear sentiment that has been strengthened by France's refusal to halt nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific.

Mr. Howe said before he left Canberra for Wellington that New Zealand had effectively opted out of ANZUS.

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# 15 charged in U.S. murder plots

WASHINGTON (R) — Fourteen alleged white supremacists were charged with conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government and plotting to assassinate a judge and a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent, the Justice Department announced.

Three of the defendants and a 15th person, Jean Margaret Craig, were also charged in connection with the machine gun killing of a Denver radio personality, Alan Berg, it said.

The indictments, returned by grand juries in Denver and Fort Smith, Arkansas, were announced by the Justice Department after the arrest of eight of the defendants by FBI agents.

The other seven already were serving sentences in federal prisons for previous convictions, it said.

The indictment charged that 10 defendants plotted to finance the

overthrow of the government from mid-1983 until early 1985 through armed robberies and counterfeiting.

It said the plot included killing members of ethnic groups by bombings, destroying utilities, polluting water supplies and establishing guerrilla warfare training camps.

All those charged were affiliated with white supremacist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan or the Aryan Nations, the department said.

The other six charged in the indictment were already in prison on other convictions, the Justice Department said.

Berg, who frequently used his radio show to attack the white supremacist movement and their leaders, was shot on June 18, 1984 as he got out of his car in front of his apartment.

"This horrendous act shows yet again the IRA's utter contempt for human life and society, and their readiness to kill anyone in pursuit of their continuing vicious and murderous campaign ... it must not and will not be allowed to succeed," Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King said.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey pledged that no effort would be spared to bring the killers to justice.

"This horrible act must be condemned by every right-thinking person," he said.

The bomb apparently exploded in a car parked on the main Belfast to Dublin road as three vehicles passed by, a police statement said.

Mr. Gibson joined Northern Ireland's judiciary in 1968 and was at the centre of a political row three years ago when he acquitted three policemen charged with killing an IRA man.

# 30 die in Filipino violence

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — At least 30 people, including five candidates, have been killed in the campaign for the May 11 legislative elections, the armed forces chief-of-staff said Saturday.

Gen. Fidel V. Ramos also classified more than 600 towns and cities as election "hot spots," including two areas where President Corason Aquino and leftist candidates were campaigning Saturday.

Negros Island, 480 kilometres south east of Manila, and Mindanao, 320 kilometres farther south, are among the expected trouble spots because of intense campaign rivalries or the presence of Communist rebels and private armies of people described by Gen. Ramos as "political warlords."

No violence was reported as Mrs. Aquino campaigned in the

Negros city of Bacolod for her senate candidates, or as candidates of the leftist Partido Ng Bayan (PNB) (People's Party) made stops in Digos and Davao City on Mindanao.

PNB was founded by former leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People's Army.

The local press previously had reported only nine pre-election killings since the campaign for 24 Senate and 200 House of Representatives seats began March 9.

Gen. Ramos told a news conference that of the five candidates killed, four belonged to pro-Aquino parties and one to PNB. All were lower house aspirants.

The other fatalities included three town mayors, 12 campaign workers for pro-administration candidates and 10 working for opposition parties, most of them apparently belonging to PNB.

# Serbs and police clash in Yugoslavia's Kosovo region

BELGRADE (R) — Tempers flared in Yugoslavia's ethnically tense Kosovo region with demonstrators hurling stones at police in the area's worst reported clash since it was rocked by bloody riots in 1981.

Belgrade television showed police retreating before a shouting crowd of some 10,000 Serbs and Montenegrins.

It was the first incident of its kind reported by the Yugoslav media since the 1981 Albanian nationalist riots in Kosovo when at least nine people were killed.

The crowd had gathered outside a cultural centre in Kosovo Polje where Serbian Communist Party chief Slobodan Milosevic was meeting representatives of the Serbs and Montenegrins, and scuffles erupted when helmeted police tried to push the crowd away from the centre with batons.

The official Tanjug News Agency said the crowd, chanting "we want freedom," dispersed after Mr. Milosevic calmed them with an appeal from a window in the centre.

"Let's behave as we should at a meeting and not as though we

were at a rally," said Mr. Milosevic amid cheers. The television showed him appealing to the crowd with the words: "Keep order yourselves there's no reason for the police to have to do it."

Tanjug said several people were lightly injured in the clash and that at least 1,000 people were still gathered.

Ethnic tensions in Kosovo, which has a population of 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins, have been flaring, and Mr. Milosevic rushed to Kosovo Polje to calm a crowd of 5,000 Serbs and Montenegrins last Monday.

Thousands of non-Albanians flee the area every year saying Albanians are driving them out in order to create an all-Albanian Kosovo.

They often complain that police and courts in Kosovo are biased and lax in punishing ethnic Albanians for crimes including murder, rape of minors, property offences and hindering of cattle.

In 1981, the army was called in when Albanians rioted to get republic status within Yugoslavia.

# Cosmonauts face problems aboard orbiting 'space train'

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the world's first orbiting "space train" must resolve a series of complex problems before they can begin scientific research, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Saturday.

Pravda said cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveikin would have to align their Mir space complex to the sun, adjust space gyroscopes and "teach" new computers to work independently for the success of their mission.

Romanenko and Laveikin blasted off to Mir on Feb. 6. They

docked their Soyuz TM-2 spacecraft with the giant space laboratory, which has since been joined by the Kvant astrophysical research module and a Progress cargo vessel.

The "train" of four space vehicles now measures nearly 35 metres and is the first such complex to orbit the globe.

Pravda said complex, time-consuming adjustments were needed before research could begin aboard Kvant, which is packed with high-technology instruments developed with West European cooperation.

# 3 employees plead guilty to Puerto Rican hotel fire

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Three hotel employees pleaded guilty Friday to federal charges of setting the New Year's Eve fire that killed 97 people at the Dnpont Plaza, and two of them pleaded guilty to murder counts.

The three changed their arson pleas from innocent as part of a plea bargain with federal prosecutors. The trial had been scheduled to begin on Monday in U.S. district court. Sentencing was set for June 22.

Hector Escudero Aponte, a 35-year-old maintenance worker, pleaded guilty to a federal charge of first-degree murder in the death of secret service agent Mannel De Jesus Marrero Otero, who was investigating a counterfeit-money case and died in the fire at the beachfront hotel.

The two other defendants are Armando Jimenez Rivera, 29, a

bartender's assistant, and Jose Francisco Rivera Lopez, 40, a bartender.

Immediately after the federal court hearing, Jimenez Rivera was taken to Puerto Rico superior court, where the three face charges of first-degree murder, arson and conspiracy.

Jimenez Rivera pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of second-degree murder, arson and conspiracy. Second-degree murder carries a prison sentence of 12 to 30 years.

The trial for Rivera Lopez and Escudero Aponte in superior court is scheduled to begin on Aug. 24.

U.S. attorney Daniel Lopez Romo, who filed the murder charge against Escudero Aponte at Friday's hearing, said prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty. The maximum sentence for federal arson charges is life in prison or death.

# Koryagin vows to continue denouncing 'Bolshevik terror'

ZURICH (R) — Dissident Soviet psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin says he will go on denouncing Soviet treatment of political prisoners despite being allowed to emigrate to the West with his family.

Arriving to start a new life in Switzerland, Koryagin also said he was sceptical of the extent to which Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would curb the use of what he called "Bolshevik terror" against the regime's opponents.

"The fact that the Soviet authorities release some political prisoners is a good thing, but I am not sure whether it is the start of liberalisation," Koryagin said. "Will it really continue?"

"I will continue my human rights activities because I consider the question to be of global importance. Even disarmament and the question of keeping the

peace must be connected with the human rights issue," he added. "They must be pursued for the sake of humanity not for the sake of politics."

Koryagin, freed from jail in February, is one of 150 or so dissidents released by the Kremlin in recent months. He was jailed in 1981 for repeatedly alleging that authorities put people in psychiatric hospitals for their political views.

Permission to leave the Soviet Union came only after a long campaign by human rights groups here and in the rest of Western Europe. Along with his human rights activities, Koryagin said he hoped to be able eventually to practise as a psychiatrist.

Koryagin arrived here late Friday aboard a Swissair DC-9 with his wife Galina, his mother and three sons.

# COLUMNS 7 & 8

## Man fights off crocodile

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian boilermaker says he fought off a crocodile which had seized him around the chest and dragged him underwater by punching it repeatedly on the snout. Ron Dunham, 48, told the Australian newspaper that he was snorkelling off in the Solomon Islands when the (three-metre) saltwater crocodile attacked. "This bloody great croc just appeared over my shoulder ... He grabbed me over the shoulder and chest and I got a bit uptight about it," Dunham was quoted as saying. "He was crushing me and took me to the bottom. That's when I started to get really stropy. I punched him right on the nose. He did nothing for a minute or two so I gave him two or three clouts and he jumped off the bottom. His jaws opened up a little bit and I managed to get my right arm under his jaw and gave a heave. I don't know whether he wanted to get another bite but he spun off," said Dunham, who is recovering from extensive lacerations and bruises at his home in Papua New Guinea.

## Blundering kidnappers give phone number

LONDON (R) — Three kidnappers blundered after threatening to blow the legs off an Italian baker unless they received a £4,500 (\$7,500) ransom. Instead, they blew their own cover by telling his relatives to ring back when they had raised the money. "We won't call, you ring us," the kidnappers told Michael Varone's family, police said. Police traced the number given to a telephone box in the east England city of Peterborough and staked it out until the three kidnappers returned to hear from the Varones. The three kidnappers were arrested and Varone was released. "The kidnapping was perhaps not as sophisticated as one might have expected or feared," police said.

## Scientists set chemicals to music

EAST LANSING, Michigan (AP) — Scientists someday may check for drugs or illnesses in people by listening to their urine, Michigan State University scientists said as they demonstrated a way to "hear" chemicals. "I think in a few years, as you're walking down a street and you meet a friend, instead of asking, 'how do you feel today?' You'll be able to ask, 'how do you sound today?'" biochemistry Professor Charles Sweeley joked as researchers turned a graph of chemical components into musical notes. The process, developed by Michigan State researchers, could free a busy scientist from scanning yards of printouts to detect a single substance, they said. It also could allow surgeons to listen the heart's performance rather than watch a heart monitor, they said. Sweeley showed a graph of the "peaks and valleys" representing substances found in urine. The height of a peak represented the amount of each substance. By using a device known as a computerised gas chromatograph, a personal computer and a digital music synthesizer to assign musical notes to the printout, researchers produced a series of notes — loud or soft, bell or drum — to represent the components of the urine. If "normal" urine is assigned the notes of a familiar song, foreign substances in the urine produce a sour note easily detected, researchers said.

## Seoul to pay for scaring off bees

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean government must pay \$1,500 to a bee-keeper whose bees were frightened away by artillery fire from a nearby military camp, a Seoul court has ruled. Lee Pong-Gi of Yangju, east of the capital, had sued the government for causing him a business setback.

## Ignorance blamed for threat to wildlife

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Britain's Prince Philip has said that many of the world's endangered species faced extinction because of ignorance, not malice. The prince, international president of the World Wildlife Fund, is on a three-city tour of the United States to promote the organisation. He told a news conference in San Francisco that the key to protecting wildlife was to concentrate on preserving natural habitats which were increasingly being destroyed by over-exploitation of resources, aggravated by rapid population growth. The World Wildlife Fund, a network of 23 national organisations, is particularly concerned about the rapid destruction of tropical forest in many countries in the southern hemisphere. One method the group has used to deal with this problem is to encourage the creation of national parks. Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth, said two of the group's major accomplishments had been helping to protect the Bengal tiger in India and working with the Chinese government to save the giant panda from extinction.

## Judge throws out New York smoking ban

ALBANY, New York (AP) — A judge struck down as unconstitutional a set of sweeping regulations that would have limited smoking in most restaurants, workplaces and other public buildings in New York state beginning May 7. The regulations, touted as among the most stringent in the United States, would have banned smoking in taxis, food markets, banks, auditoriums and courthouses. It would have limited smoking to designated areas in workplaces, large restaurants, schools and other public places. The State Public Health Council issued the regulations in February. But Justice Harold Hughes ruled in trial-level state supreme court that the issue was not whether smoking should be banned, but that such widespread restrictions should be imposed by the legislature, not by the council. State officials said they would appeal, and lawyers for both sides said the case would likely go to New York's highest court, the court of appeals. The public health council adopted the regulations after months of public hearings and over the objections of the tobacco industry and groups representing restaurants and other businesses.

## 2 tonnes of ordnance found in house

OBERHAUSEN, West Germany (AP) — Police discovered more than two tonnes of World War II ordnance stored in a private home after going to the scene of a grenade blast that severed the hand of the man living there, officials said. The 22-year-old man, who was not identified, was hospitalised for his injury and an Oberhausen police spokesman said he could be charged with illegal possession of war weapons. A conviction brings a maximum five years in prison. Officers who raided the two-story house in this north-western industrial city said they found hundreds of grenades, aircraft bombs and other World War II-vintage arms, said the police spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity. Police went to the home after hearing a grenade go off inside, he said. Officers had carried off about two tonnes of weapons by late afternoon and more remained to be picked up later, the spokesman said. He said officers also found a metal-detecting device in the house, indicating that the injured man may have collected the weapons as a hobby. Also on Friday, a World War II-era German land mine exploded in Bourgneuf, France, seriously injuring a woman picking flowers on her front lawn, authorities said. Police in the city, 12 kilometres south east of Caen in north-western France, said Colette Lesellier apparently stepped on the 40-year-old bomb at the foot of a weeping willow tree in her yard. A police officer, speaking in accordance with French practice on condition of anonymity, said Mrs. Lesellier was rushed to a Caen hospital, where her left leg was amputated.

## Indonesian Volcano emits dust

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The Lokon Volcano on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi emitted a shower of dust, the official Antara news agency has reported. No casualties were reported. The volcano in the South Pacific has been active lately. Between March and August last year, the volcano spewed ashes and boulders, causing an estimated \$3 million in damage in nearby villages.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A78652 ♣Q952 ♦64  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—Your queen of hearts is a huge asset, as is your ace, and perhaps even your doubleton club. Don't rebid spades and make partner think you don't like his hearts. Raise to four hearts.
- Q2.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AJ102 ♣83 ♠Q854 ♦753  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—You have a borderline decision. Partner is showing a pretty fair hand with his raise to three spades and you have a useful hand where you have promised little. However, the vulnerability here favors the brave, so we would choose to bid four spades.
- Q3.—Both vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:  
♠KQ ♣A83 ♠AQ6 ♦J72  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
Pass Double Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—Don't flog a dead horse. You have already told partner you have a very good hand, and he has informed you that he is poverty-stricken by failing to compete over two no trump. You have some chance of defeating your opponents, so let them struggle.—Pass.
- Q4.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K63 ♣642 ♠875 ♦752  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—Follow the example of the chap who said: "I've seen my duty and I don't do it!" Partner asked you to bid your longest suit, and that's hearts. We know you didn't dream of passing, and one no trump shows more values than you have. Two hearts fits the bill.
- Q5.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQ1052 ♣K93 ♠Q76 ♦K  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 NT Pass ?  
What action do you take?  
A.—We know that you have an aceless hand and that partner passed originally. Nevertheless, we see no reason why you should not take a normal action. One of the reasons you opened this hand is that you held both major suits, so go ahead and show the second one. Bid three hearts.
- Q6.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQ385 ♣1083 ♠852 ♦44  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—You can't afford to be shut out of the bidding—partner might not be able to act again at this level. Bid four spades. True, this action runs a certain amount of risk, but you have a good suit and your hand is worth far more than its point count might suggest.